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Thursday, March 25, 2004 | The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | Volume 56, Issue 27

What happened to Juan de Fuca?

How the popularity of Victoria's only disc golf course led to its demise

page 17

Endangered marmots vs. golden eagles

Environmentalists seethe at killing of marmot predator

BY JOHN THOMPSON

The bodies of six golden eagles languish inside a freezer at the University of Victoria after being culled by the provincial government to protect the endangered Vancouver Island marmot.

Discovery of the birds has stirred up a national debate over the merits of killing one rare species to protect another. News broke last week after UVic biologist Neville Winchester announced he had found the eagles inside the office of the Ministery of Water, Land and Air Protection in Nanaimo. He regularly visits the building to collect specimens for a class he teaches. When Winchester first laid eyes on the birds, he said his reaction was surprise.

"These don't just fly into windows," he said.

The eagles, protected under Canadian law but fair game under predator-control measures, were shot after being lured with a deer carcass. The decision to cull the eagles was never made public, a move that has frustrated conservationists and members of the Marmot Recovery Foundation, who were never told of the government's actions.

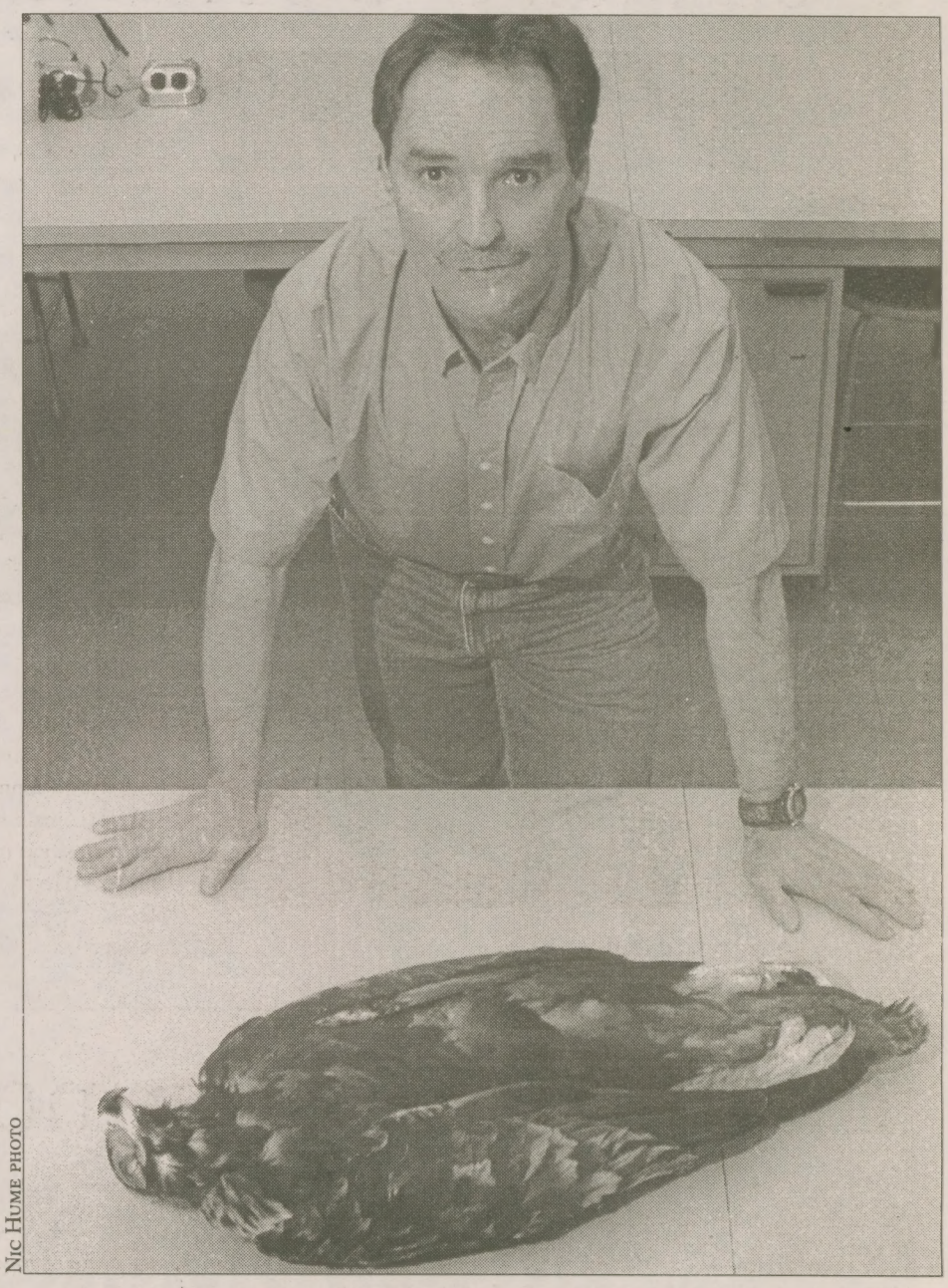
Marmots are the largest members of the squirrel family who grow to the size of a housecat. They burrow tunnels within the high mountains of Vancouver Island, feed on grass and flowers, and are the prey of larger animals like cougars, wolves and eagles. Only two-dozen Vancouver Island marmots are believed to exist in the wild.

Winchester said the now frozen eagles are a symptom of a larger problem: government's tendency to put the interests of industry ahead of habitat concerns. He expects to see more species in trouble as the government opens class-A parks for resource extraction, like the Carmanah Valley where he studied old-growth forests during the early '90s.

"Under this government it's a nightmare," he said.

While no resource extraction is taking place where marmots live the network of lakes and lowlands that surround Nanaimo have been logged, leaving marmot colonies vulnerable to predators. Winchester suggests any decision to re-log these areas, which were first cut 60 to 100 years ago, will determine the fate of the little critter.

"We never react or change . . . until we reach a crisis situation."



NIC HUME PHOTO

UVic biologist Neville Winchester poses with one of the several golden eagles being stored in a UVic lab freezer.

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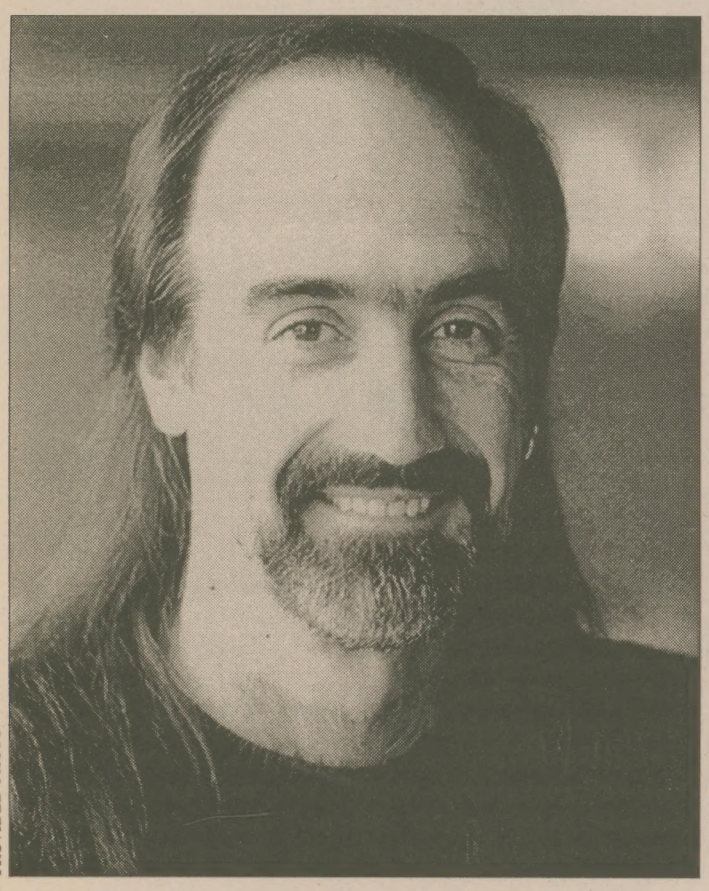
Felicita's comedy routine offends



PROVIDED PHOTO
Tim Koslo's act ruffled feathers.

BY BRYNA HALLAM

Tensions were high at a comedy show last Tuesday night at Felicita's.

"I felt offended the whole time," said Jeannie Coates, who sat through most of the show.

Coates said that with the exception of one performer, the night "felt like an insult to your intelligence."

"The headliner was an absolute nightmare," she said, calling the performances racist, sexist and homophobic. According to her, a lot of people looked uncomfortable during the acts, and many people left.

The evening started out with a lineup of amateur comedians, followed by headliner Tim Koslo. Jokes ranged from comments on the physical appearance of a women in the audience to stereotypical depictions of First Nations, complete with drumming and an "accent."

Tensions rose when a woman in the audience stood up, called Koslo a racist and told him his jokes were inappropriate.

Coates said Koslo defended himself and tried to discount the women, making comments like, "What's your problem, babe? You're the only one not laughing."

Coates points out there were many people not laughing–herself included–but also admits there were plenty of people enjoying themselves.

While Coates says she wouldn't be comfortable if this kind of comedy was on campus regularly, she believes the incident has allowed people to consider why this type of comedy is not funny. She also hopes management will be more conscious of these issues from now on.

"I hope that the acts will be better screened," said Coates. "It would be fantastic if quality comedy was in Felicita's, but there definitely needs to be a better process."

Dale Robertson, business operations division manager for the UVSS, said the night was a learning experience.

"We were trying to provide something new and exciting for students," said Robertson. "It was not our intention to make people uncomfortable."

The show was the first of three comedy nights scheduled for Felicita's during March. Robertson said the performers were told before the show that it was a unique environment with a more sensitive audience than some other venues. However, not everyone took that into consideration when preparing their act.

He believes that the night "snowballed," saying that an unexpected Canucks loss may have caused some performers to be more vulgar than usual. Also, he thinks there is also the possibility the amateur comedians fell back on what had worked for them before–a combination of questionable jokes. He believes, though, that a mainstream professional comedian should know better. Since that night, Robertson has sat down with the promoter and discussed their expectations for future shows. They will be working together to avoid similar situations in the future.

Robertson stresses there is an avenue for communication in situations like this, and that they will try to respond to students' concerns.

Koslo was unavailable for comment.

Law school in turmoil over equity and hiring

BY PATRICK WHITE

A raucous and emotional meeting last week shook the foundations of the UVic law school and has faculty reconsidering their approach to diversity and equity.

The meeting was held in response to three months of outcry over the hiring of Ben Berger late last year. Berger was regarded by students and some faculty as less qualified than a number of female candidates also considered for the job, sparking allegations that the school's hiring practices were unfair.

The intent of the meeting was to invite concerns and suggestions for how the hiring process could be reformed, but it quickly turned into an airing of grievances with the school's attitude towards equity and diversity.

Second-year law student Shaunagh Stikeman said before the crowd of around 80 packed into the Fraser building lounge that she was attracted to UVic by an advertising campaign that promised a decidedly different social atmosphere than other law schools. "Had I known that the faculty had one of the most inequitable law schools in the country I would not have come here," said Stikeman.

In advertising materials, the UVic law school says its progressive approach to equity, diversity and human rights make up "the UVic law difference," which is cited positively in a number law schools surveys that rank UVic high in Canada.

Stikeman also expressed alarm at the low percentage of female faculty members. "We [the student body] are 60 per cent female . . . this is simply not reflected in the makeup of the law faculty."

Kelly Foote, a member of the hiring committee and a student of colour, said that when he first came to the school last year, "I didn't see myself reflected in many of the law professors." Chase was singled out by faculty staff to appear on a law school pamphlet along with other visible minorities to give the appearance of equity. He added that some faculty members made him feel embarrassed by disregarding him when he expressed his concerns on the matter.

A number of students made written submissions to the meeting because they were too uncomfortable with the thought of expressing their concerns in front of faculty.

David Chun of the Anti-Discrimination Committee said their absence emphasized problems in the school. "It's not just lack of diversity but what that lack represents–it represents oppression," he said. He went on to recommend on behalf of the Anti-Discrimination Committee that faculty members "undergo intensive anti-oppression training."

Despite females making up 30 per cent of faculty, one student said that they teach 40 per cent of first-year classes. This, she said, "looks like we're trying to cover up a deficiency."

Some faculty members in the audience were taken aback by the student complaints. Professor Gerry Ferguson, holding back tears, said, "It hurts to hear you think I'm personally clueless. There has been hurt everywhere. The past few months have been the most distressing of my career."

His moving statement brought tears and sniffles from throughout the room and resulted in a standing ovation.

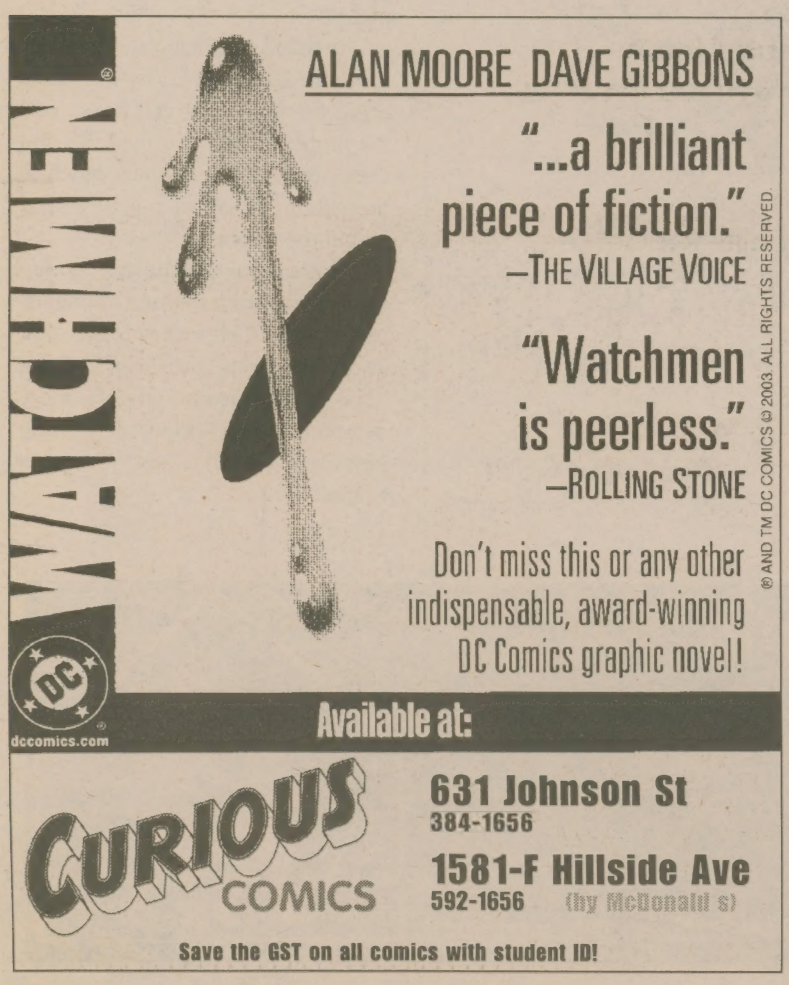
Rebecca Johnson, another professor, also received a standing ovation as the faculty member who initially brought the hiring issue to the attention of students and the school.

The ovations, tears and tissues sedated the lynch mob atmosphere of the meeting as those in attendance expressed a collective willingness to move ahead rather than dwell on the problems.

Dean McClaren finished up saying that the meeting would be the first of many that would move the school forward from its environment of obvious dissatisfaction.

A faculty retreat next month will tackle the issues that arose.

Following the meeting, students and faculty described it as "seismic," adding that the issues addressed can no longer be ignored without large-scale rebuke from across the school.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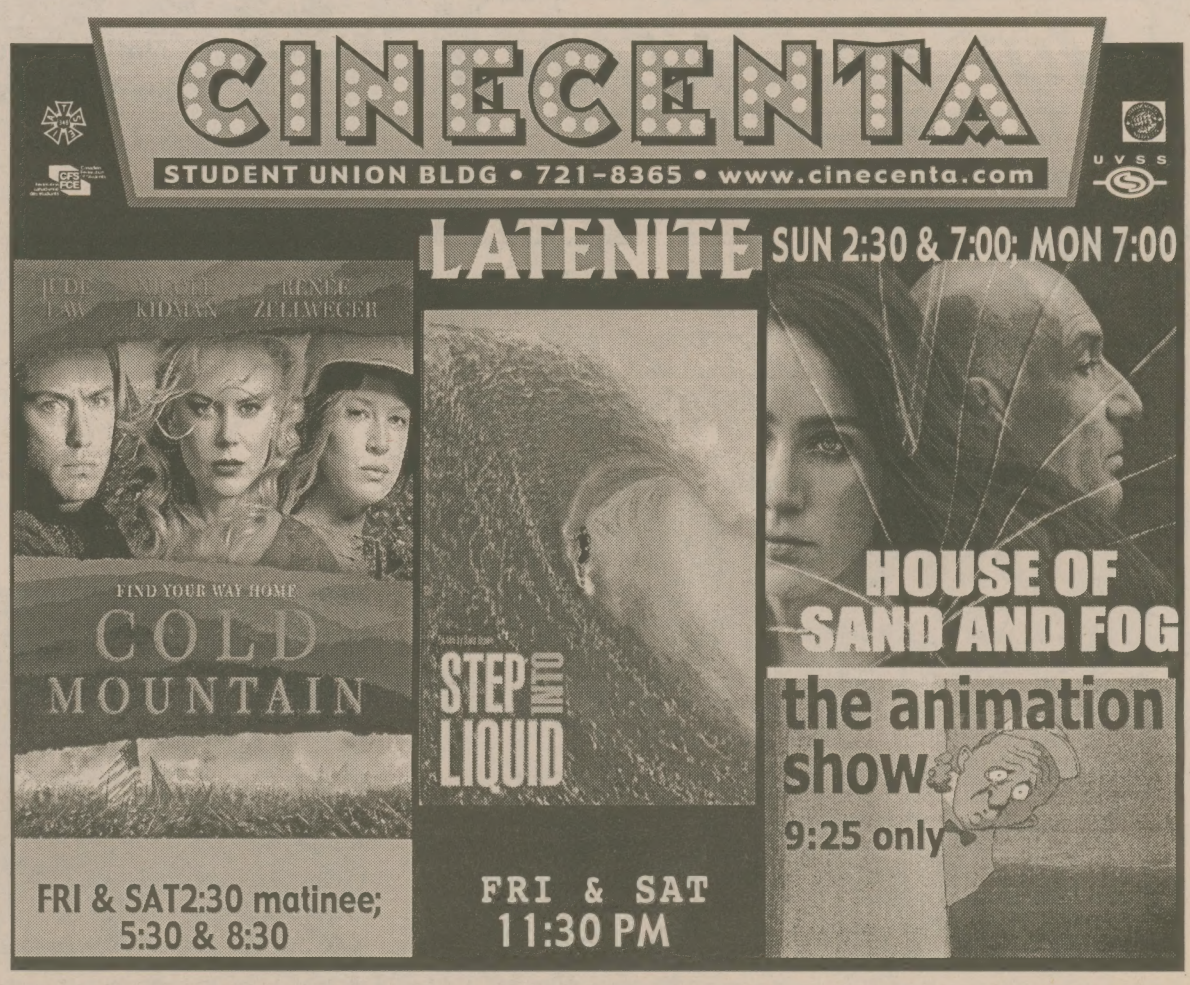
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Anti-war spirit still strong

by Edward Pullman

The wind may have been strong, but spirits were stronger for the one-year anniversary protest against the war on Iraq. Between 400 and 500 people gathered in Centennial Square under the banner "The World Still Says No to War" to march against last year's war in Iraq and the subsequent occupation.

"This protest was about ending the occupation in Iraq," said Valerie Lannon of the Stop the War Committee. "It was about giving control of Iraq to Iraqis, not a foreign power."

Groups such as Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice, the Green Party and others were also present.

The Victoria protest was one of many worldwide on March 20, as millions gathered to show their continued disapproval of British and American involvement in Iraq over the last year. Although protests were not of the same magnitude as one year ago, when around 10,000 took to the streets of Victoria, overall world opinion still seems to oppose the actions spearheaded by the Bush administration in dealing with the Iraqi "threat."

Oddly enough, there was no protest in Baghdad.

"Let's join hundreds of millions worldwide and say no to lies, no to occupation, and no to Bush," said Mohammad Younas Mirza from the B.C. Muslim Association to the crowd, which responded with a cheer of support.

Speakers at Centennial Square included Iraqi, Spanish and Salvadoran activists, with music from the Raging Grannies to start off the march.

When asked whether there was frustration over the fact that the war still went ahead, despite last year's protests, Lannon responded, "Well, we won. We were right all along." She was referring to new information released in past months stating that the claims of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq were exaggerated.

Erik Haensel photo

Protesters march through Victoria.

She also pointed out that Canada is not totally innocent in its claims of neutrality in the war on Iraq, saying that Canadian troops sent to Afghanistan helped relieve U.S. forces and allowed more resources to be diverted to the Iraq war. Canadian naval vessels operating in the Persian Gulf and continued co-operation between Canadian and American intelligence agencies also aided the war effort.

After music and speeches, the group began its march towards downtown Victoria, stopping briefly for an address from federal NDP candidate David Turner. In a series of remarks, he condemned the countries that started the war for spending $110 billion and killing 10,000 Iraqi civilians, stating, "This is not a war against terrorism, but a war of terrorism."

After returning to Centennial Square, marchers took in music from One Less Felon and political rapper Lisa B.

Aboriginal delegates 'appalled'

by Ginny Collins (CUP)

Several aboriginal delegates have walked away from the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) after the federation refused to acknowledge their rights at a National Aboriginal Caucus meeting, according to caucus chairperson Julie Bartlett.

The meeting, held earlier this month in Victoria, hosted aboriginal students and CFS representatives from chapters all over Canada.

According to Bartlett, the behavior of the CFS national office was telling of the on-going disregard that the federation shows toward Aboriginal students.

"The CFS treats aboriginal students the way the federal government treats aboriginal communities: in a paternalistic, condescending manner meant to appear benevolent," Bartlett said a few days after the meeting. "They're so caught up in following policy that there's no freedom. aboriginal voices get lost in the rigid control of their policy."

Bartlett cited instances where delegates were belittled by CFS representatives and where she herself was reprimanded for defending an aboriginal from a local other than her own.

At one point, Bartlett claims that a CFS national office member went yelling after one of the aboriginal delegates after they had tried to diffuse a confrontation.

"I had never seen anything more disrespectful in all my life," said Bartlett. "To yell at a delegate in front of other delegates and our elder and invited guests is appallingly poor behaviour."

She also referred to an incident where one delegate was belittled for "supporting the corporate agenda" because they invited CIBC to give a presentation about summer employment.

Audra Taillefer, First Nations Director to the Camosun College Students Society and a CFS employee, said the problems between the CFS and the Aboriginal Caucus have much to do with a lack of cultural awareness within the federation.

"If there is going to be this aboriginal caucus within this non-aboriginal organization then we need to see that awareness going on," said Taillefer. "The caucus needs to work more autonomously as opposed to being governed. The CFS has to be open to that."

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News briefs

Awnings offer protection from deteriorating Clearihue

Maintenance crews have turned the main entrance of the Clearihue building into something of a maze all in the name of safety. Roofed walkways constructed over the past week are meant to protect students from stucco falling from the clock tower of the aging Clearihue building. Facilities Management said the awnings will remain in place until the end of summer when renovation work done to halt raining stucco chips is expected to be complete. A *Martlet* article published last year showed that students and faculty members have concerns about concrete chips falling inside Clearihue as well.

Students starve, budget carves

$251 million of the 2004–2005 federal budget will go to students, but student groups say that money offers little immediate relief for ballooning debt loads.

Much of Finance Minister Ralph Goodale's budget speech focused on students. New initiatives include a Canada Learning Bond and a new first-year grant for students. But don't expect much assistance from either of the programs unless you happen to be a newborn. The new bond is only avaiable to those born after 2003 and does not become accessible until 2022. The first-year grant program offers up to $3,000 for 20,000 needy first-year students across the country.

"It's a piddly program," said incoming UVic Students' Society Chair Joanna Groves. "It's only for 20,000 students–that's ridiculous. There are hundreds of thousands of students in the country who are burdened with huge debts."

Students will also be eligible for larger loans as the government said it was increasing the weekly student loan ceiling to $210 a week from $165.

"More student debt is not the solution," said Groves. "The student loan program is a regressive system. Those who need it end up paying more for post-secondary education through interest. Essentially the poor end up paying more for being poor."

Norman Ed Baskerville photo

Mutahir Sabree spoke during Muslim Awareness Week on dispelling myths about his religion.

Islam opposes terrorism, scholar says

by Sarah Petrescu

At first, Mutahir Sabree is an intimidating speaker. The bushy-bearded Muslim Imam from South Carolina dresses in robe and headdress, speaks with a powerful Washington accent, and sounds more Black Panther than subdued spiritual leader–which makes sense. Sabree was inspired by the Black Panthers and the Nation of Islam during the 1970s before he turned to what he describes as "the true Islam."

"I had never heard the concept of God as a black man before, and I was intrigued just because it was different," said Sabree in an interview.

Sabree became politically active in his youth, looking up to the likes of Muhammad Ali and Malcolm X. In college, he even participated in taking over a radio station in order to give the black community some airtime. Sabree changed his activist path once he committed himself to Islam in his early twenties, a religion he said transcends issues of race and answers big questions in genuine ways. Now he is a Muslim prison chaplain in Columbia, South Carolina.

"Islam is so complete, it doesn't leave anything out," said Sabree. "You can try all the 'isms' you want, I did, but Islam lets God give the answers."

Sabree gave a series of lectures at UVic last week as part of Muslim Awareness Week.

He spoke on topics ranging from the lives of Jesus and Muhammad to Islam in the media. His final talk, entitled "Islam and Terrorism," aimed to dispel myths about his religion that he feels are perpetuated by the media–especially in the United States.

"Why is it than when an act of terrorism is committed by a Muslim, their religion is all you hear about? How many of you know what religion Timothy McVeigh was?" Sabree asked, referring to the Oklahoma City bomber.

"I am here to tell you that Islam is in no way synonymous to terrorism. It does not condone or justify it by any stretch of the imagination."

Sabree tackled difficult issues head-on, including suicide bombers and the misinterpretation of Islamic Jihad. He said suicide is absolutely forbidden in Islam, especially if it includes the killing of innocent people. Though some Islamic scholars have claimed suicide bombing is an acceptable measure of war, Sabree disagrees.

"It is unfortunate that these people are not educated enough to read the Qur'an accurately. They take advantage of others. The truth about the Mideast is, it is a desperate situation and people are taking desperate measures," said Sabree. "But Islam forbids giving up hope and giving up is what suicide is."

Sabree spoke with intensity to the gripped audience, often checking his notes from the Qur'an and following his sentences with Arabic supplication such as inshallah (god-willing) and peace be upon him, when mentioning the Prophet Muhammad. Occasionally he took the intense crowd off-guard with a surprise joke.

"Islam tells it like it is in regards to terrorism. It is not accepted and Muslims around the world need to clarify that. There is only one Bush we need to beat around," said Sabree to delayed laughter.

Sabree urged Muslims, who made up about one-third of the audience, to speak out. He said Muslim countries have trouble uniting on anything because they are still under the influences of other countries, in what he calls "neo-colonialism."

"We cannot be silenced," he said. "It is up to you–the communities–to spread the truth of Islam. If the media is being unfair, we need to take it upon ourselves to respond. Write letters, speak up, and don't let a whole world of your people be slandered."

Sabree emphasized education, not acts of terrorism, as the most important tool for Muslims.

"If the people who bombed the twin towers put all that money and organization into educating Muslims and the public about the true nature of the religion, we wouldn't have Muslim schools being forced to close down or charity organizations going bankrupt," he said.

Sabree concluded his talk by answering an audience member's question about what non-Muslims can do to respond to terrorism and to ward off prejudiced representations of Islam in the media. Sabree replied with sage advice, making a plug for what he sees as the greatest spiritual outlet: "Pray to God to give them guidance and bring them to justice. Be careful not to rush to judgment in regards to Islam. We need to pray as one people to help alleviate humanity of these injustices."

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UVic swag sweatshop-free?

by Noah Ross

Ever wondered if a nine-year-old girl sewed your ass-plate University of Victoria sweatpants? Questioned where your favourite Vikes T-shirt was hemmed? Hopefully UVic students can stop asking these questions, thanks to a recent decision by the bookstore to become a member of the Fair Labor Association, an independent textile industry watchdog.

The Fair Labor Association (FLA) is an independent American organization that signs contracts with schools and clothing companies and then sends monitors to the clothing factories to ensure that they meet a set of international ethical standards.

Jim Forbes, the manager of the University of Victoria bookstore, said that he has "contacted the Fair Labor Association and the University will be a member of within three months." The University of Victoria will join the University of Alberta as the only Canadian universities to have joined the FLA, along with 190 American colleges and universities.

Currently, the bookstore does its own ethics monitoring. "All the companies [we use] tell us what conditions the clothes are made in and sign off that the factories they use aren't sweatshops," said Linda Maasch, who is in charge of buying clothes and monitoring trademark licensing at the University bookstore. Sweatshops are factories where workers are forced to work long hours in unpleasant conditions for low wages.

The FLA is one of two American organizations, along with the Worker's Rights Coalition (WRC), that provides independent monitoring of textile factories. The FLA and the WRC ensure that factories meet with an internal code of conduct, including the right to assembly, no child labour and a 48-hour work week. The Fair Labor Association was founded in 1997 by the Clinton Administration and a dozen large clothing companies and currently has representatives from Nike, Polo Ralph Lauren, Liz Claiborne, Reebok and Eddie Bauer on their board of directors. The WRC, on the other hand, was started by schools, labour rights activists and student organizations.

While the WRC's code of conduct requires that workers be paid a livable wage and time and a half for overtime, the FLA's code of conduct requires only that workers be paid the national minimum wage and that they be paid an overtime wage of, "at least as much as their normal wage," in nations with no overtime legislation.

In El Salvador, one of the countries where Russell Athletic has factories, the minimum wage is US $0.60 an hour, a wage that, according to the El Salvadorian government, places the worker in the class of "extreme poverty." According to a study by Columbia University in the US, a livable wage, enough to support an average sized family in El Salvador, would be between $1.73 and $2.14 US an hour.

Linda Maasch said she thinks "the livable wage is probably the way things are going," but says that right now, "the WRC is too militant, they cause too much trouble." Linda contracts most licensed UVic clothes to the American company Russell Athletics and two small Canadian companies, Varsity Collections and Dubwear. Linda also contracts the Vikes clothing line to Gildan Activewear, a Montreal-based T-shirt company, and uses Jansport to make UVic backpacks. With the exception of Dubwear, all clothing companies that the bookstore licenses have overseas factories.

The bookstore has tried to avoid clothes made in sweatshop conditions but, in the words of Linda Maasch, "It is sketchy. [I try] to buy clothes made in Canada and America, but the fact is that most factories in the world we live in are in China and East Asia."

Nic Hume photo

A UVic T-shirt made by Gildan Activewear, a company currently under investigation for violation of worker's rights and conditions.

An example of the difficulties involved in trying to buy ethical clothes can be seen in the bookstore's relationship with Gildan Activewear. Linda Maasch said that she heard about a problem with Gildan last year and briefly stopped carrying their clothes.

However, this year she decided to buy Gildan T-shirts again because, "It looked like they had solved their problems."

However, Gildan is currently under investigation by both the FLA and the WRC for allegations that the company has fired over 100 workers since November of 2002 who supported attempts to start a union in a Honduran factory. The FLA and the WRC both inform their members about investigations that they are conducting. Because they were independent of both labour organizations, the bookstore missed the Gildan warning.

The allegations against Gildan come from the Toronto-based Maquila Solidarity Network, the Canadian Labour Congress and the Independent Federation of Honduran Workers. They report that 40 workers, including a pregnant woman, were fired in November and December of 2003. The Honduran constitution stipulates that employers are not allowed to fire pregnant women without first contacting the government.

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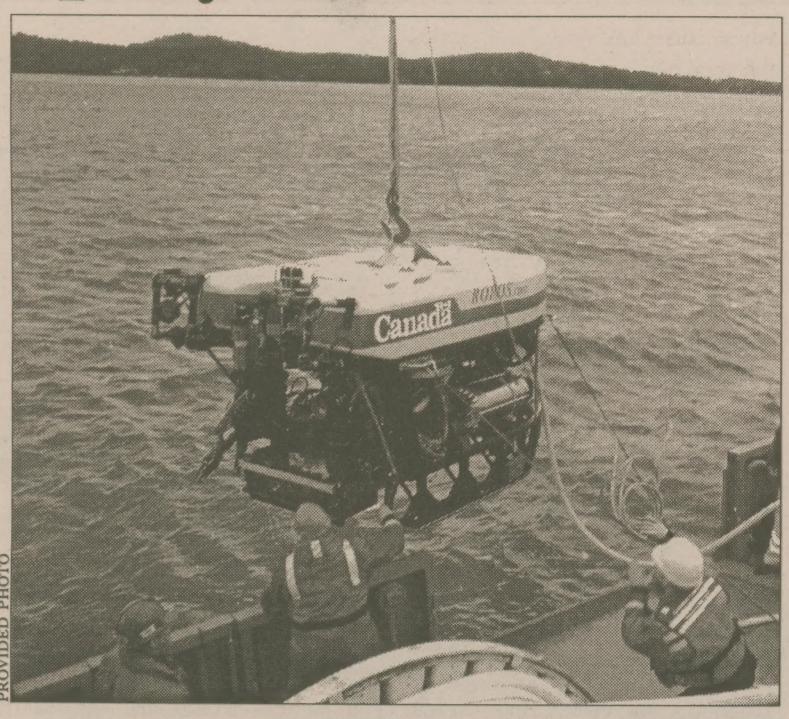
Plug-and-play at the bottom of the ocean

by Daniel Saunders

Ships employed by UVic will begin laying 73 kilometres of fiber optic cable across the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca later this year for a project that promises to revolutionize the way we study the ocean.

When the Victoria Experimental Network Under the Sea (VENUS) goes online sometime in 2006, scientists and the public alike will be able to watch and gather data on the ocean around Vancouver Island in real time, while sitting in front of their computers. At a cost of around $10 million, VENUS will be series of instrument clusters resting on the sea floor, connected in an ethernet network much like the ones that link computers in an office.

VENUS marks a change in approach that oceanographer and project science coordinator Richard Dewey calls "really a fundamental shift." In traditional ocean research, scientists drop measuring devices over the side and hope. "A month later you look at the data and go, oh, you know what, it wasn't recording. Or we missed the event by a week, or we should have been in a different spot."



PROVIDED PHOTO

VENUS team members lower the submersible robot that will be used to plug in instrument packs to the undersea network.

The "always on" nature of VENUS means that for the first time researchers will get a glimpse of the big picture of oceanic happenings. Dewey compares current tools to trying to understand weather if you could only look out the window for an hour every two months. "You'd know rain falls sometimes, but you wouldn't know for how long. And you wouldn't know that the sun heated up the earth to make convection rainfall," he said.

Adrian Round, the project director, said, "Instead of two weeks here and two weeks next year, now we've got data today. So now we can start seeing perhaps some of the finer processes that are in there. We can ask, what are the interactions?"

When first installed, the so-called "cabled observatories" are really more like outlets: it's what's plugged in that counts. The "nodes" provide electricity and two-way communication to measuring packages, which can be plugged and unplugged by a remote-controlled robot.

To start with, the nodes will likely include instruments to measure temperature, current flow, salinity, chemicals in the water and concentration of plankton. The stations will also have eyes and ears: pan-and-tilt digital cameras to take snapshots of anything that swims past and hydrophones to collect a greater variety of killer whale vocalizations than has been heard before.

Three nodes will be placed on the sea floor between Vancouver Island and the mainland, spaced about 10 km apart. Two more will go between Vancouver Island and Washington.

Some early application will be to study the mixing of fresh and salt walter between the two straits, and erosion at the head of the Fraser River. VENUS will be particularly valuable for studying the impact of unpredictable events such as algal blooms and rainstorms. But the network's most compelling future uses may not yet have been thought up.

"Like any new tool the uses of it depend on the imagination of the people you give it to," said Round. "The really exciting thing will be to see what people are doing in five years."

The network, when completed, is projected to gather and store 100 gigabytes of information a day–about the same as the Hubble telescope. The project is getting expert assistance from the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics in how to present all this data to scientists and the public in a digestible form via the website.

The first node of VENUS, to be placed in Saanich Inlet this September, will be at a relatively shallow 100 metres and will start with a minimal set of instruments, but it will be surrounded by one of the richest ecosystems in the world. "It's a very healthy environment," said Dewey. When they scouted the spot, "Everywhere we looked there was life. The bottom's covered with crabs and flatfish. It's swimming with herring and shrimp. Starfish. Sea sponges."

Mock trial for Falun Gong justice

by John Thompson

Cherry blossoms and pamphlets shook in the wind as a high-ranking Chinese government official stood trial for crimes against humanity last Thursday, in a manner of speaking.

An effigy of former Chinese leader Jiang Zemin sat silent on the stage outside the Student Union Building as it faced accusations of masterminding a Gestapo-style police state's activities against practitioners of Falun Gong. The sky, blue minutes earlier, turned grey as raindrops began to fall and a dozen onlookers stood and watched the mock trial.

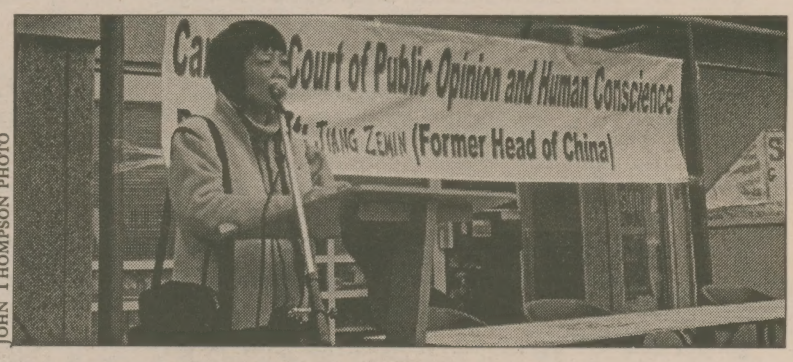
"All the people are actors, but their stories are real," explained Caylan Ford, one of the event's organizers, as tales of imprisonment, daily beatings and brainwashing were recounted during the prosecution.

"I could smell my own flesh burning," said one actor, relaying the experience of Zhao Ming, a graduate student from Trinity College in Ireland who returned to China only to be arrested and sent to a labour camp for practicing Falun Gong. "I don't know how to describe the pain."

Since 1998, the Chinese government has cracked down on practitioners of Falun Gong, a modern variant on ancient practices of exercise, deep breathing and meditation. Perceived as a political threat to the ruling Chinese Communist Party for their confrontational but non-violent tactics, practitioners have faced persecution and imprisonment. At UVic, the heavy-handed theatrics were built on experiences close to many participants and onlookers. One was Michelle Zhang, a 34-year-old mother from Vancouver whose brother-in-law, a marine biologist and Falun Gong instructor, died inside a notorious labour camp after two years of being routinely detained and imprisoned. Her sister faced similar harassment and is currently missing. Zhang believes she is imprisoned.

"I believe she's still alive, but I don't know where she is," she said, adding she feels guilt for not supporting her family, who live in Qingdao City, when the crackdown began.

"I was using every method to get them to give up . . . just to stay alive," she said, recalling how she regularly spoke rudely to her brother-in-law over the phone.



John Thompson photo

Michelle Zhang speaks about the persecution of her family in China.

"He'd just say, 'Sister, don't say any more.' He was very gentle."

"When I learned my brother-in-law was taken to a Chinese labour camp . . . I suddenly realized he was a very precious person in the world. Someone who wouldn't just go with the flow and be polluted."

Zhang says she has seen public opinion shifting over the past few years, as she distributed pamphlets in front of the Chinese consulate in Vancouver. Several years ago, many Chinese visitors would dismiss her or become angry. Now, quite a few are asking for more information. She says she continues to feel a responsibility to raise awareness.

"No matter what they do, they can't stop me from speaking out about the persecution. This doesn't just happen to my family. It happens to too many families in China."

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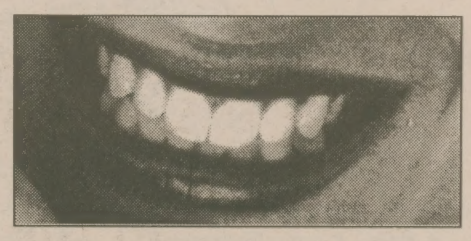

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EDITORIAL

Help us lowly free-trade sinners

Collective guilt might be an apt description for how many of us feel when considering the origin of the clothes we wear, the coffee we drink. How this guilt is manifested and what we do to assuage it is what's interesting.

If ethical consumption is the new religion at the University of Victoria, then we're all sinners. Maybe you're a conscientious vegetarian sporting a new pair of Birkenstocks, but chances are, somewhere in your closet, there's some piece of clothing produced by a malnourished 12-year-old girl from Central America or Asia. You don't need to pursue the logic of shopping-as-activism too far without running into problems. What, care more about cows than a 12-year-old girl?

This sort of "gotcha!" game was a favourite among conservative media pundits years ago, when the anti-globalization movement was still on the uprise. They'd gleefully point out many of the young punks hell-bent on disrupting international meetings for organizations like the World Trade Organization, who raged against the disparity between First World excess and Third World despair, probably still owned brand-name apparel produced under dubious conditions. The smugness of these critics can be infuriating, but their point is hard to ignore: somehow, we're all implicated.

Now consider the University Bookstore's plans to join the Fair Labor Association, an organization that provides independent monitoring of textile factories. Hopefully, this move will prevent more UVic hoodies and sweatpants from being produced in abominable conditions. And how could this be anything but good? Finally, UVic joins many university campuses across the United States who have lobbied for better working conditions in overseas textile factories. What starts on university campuses will hopefully spread beyond them.

But the path we're on soon splits. To one side, the united effort of university campuses lobbying against sweatshop labour could steer us towards the broader and burgeoning movement of holding corporations to social accountability. The companies that buy or produce apparel in North America are largely based in North America, and that means they can be regulated by government, if that's what citizens are shouting for. With enough push, "good corporate citizen" could be more than another empty catchphrase.

To the other side, we have a path that eventually takes us back to the shopping mall, to equating who we are with what we buy. But let's face it: there's something narcissistic about the belief that individual consumption patterns are your primary influence over the shape of global capitalism and international labour laws. It's an abandonment of politics in the most basic sense, of people being able to work together in groups towards common interests.

We're all sinners, and slurping free-trade coffee or sporting sweatshop-free apparel lessens our guilt through small offerings of penance. But if we're more interested in changing the world than feeling better about ourselves, supporting organized efforts, from overseas labour watchdogs to corporate responsibility movements at home, offer a better hope of salvation.

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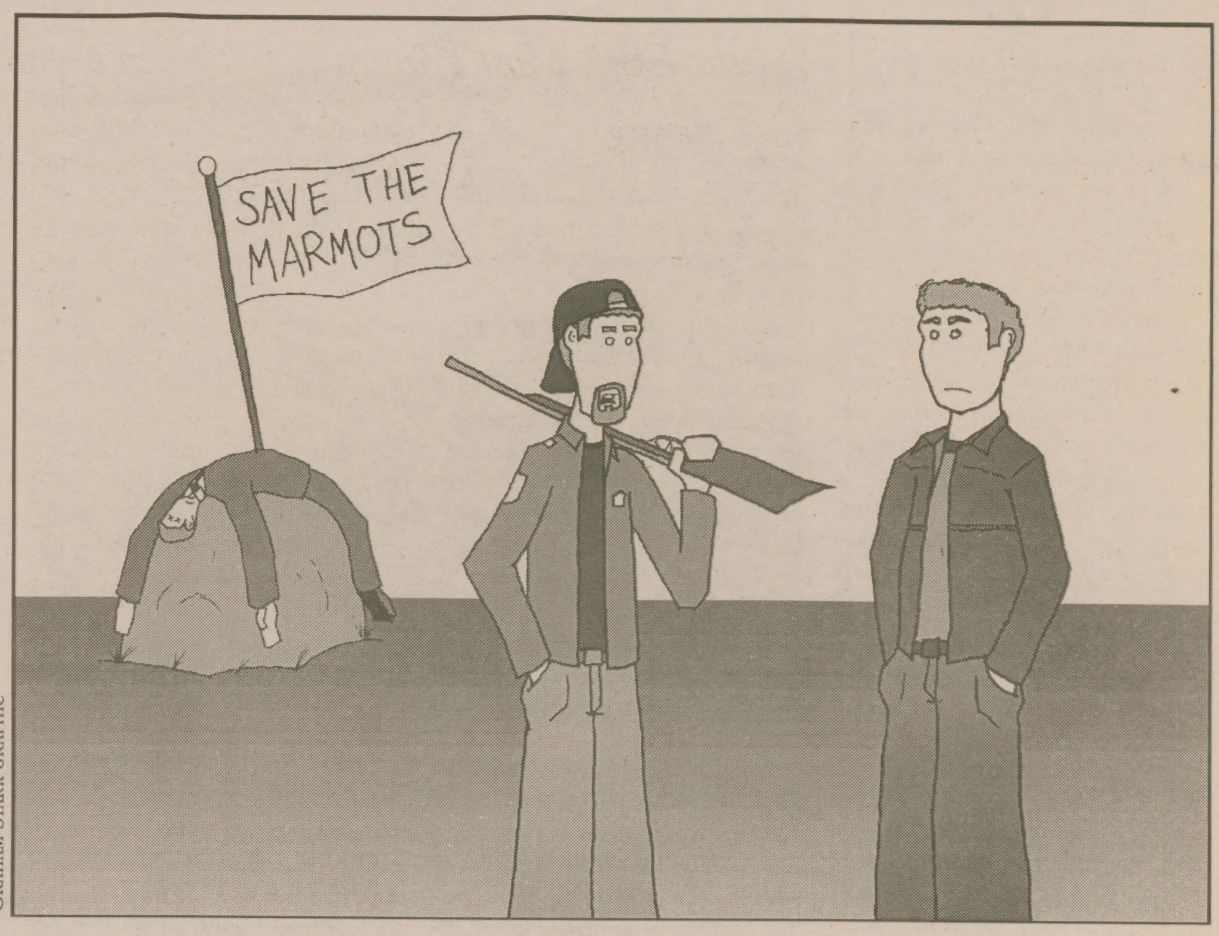

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

"Well, everyone made a big deal about the golden eagle thing, so we just started killing off logging company executives. So far, no one's complained."

LETTERS

Good grammar great

Dear Editor,

Concerning your article "Student Grammar Decline" (11 March 2004), I'd like to encourage students of all disciplines including English and Writing to explore grammar through courses in Linguistics. Discover your grammatical self! Understand "The Adventures of Noam Chomsky" with fresh insight! Use apostrophes correctly and with abandon!

Leslie Saxon

Martlet's raking of Joanna Groves too rough for some readers

There are a couple of things I would like to address from John Thompson's opinion piece ("Joanna Groves Can't Count," *Martlet*–March 18).

Firstly, Joanna was right to say that the bylaw is a grey area, particularly in regards to the circumstances surrounding her appointment to an executive position with the UVSS. The spirit of the bylaw is to ensure that there is a healthy turnover in executive directors of the society. To this end the bylaw serves its purpose.

However, in December 2002, two of the society's executive directors decided to abandon their positions for personal reasons. The Board of Directors had neither the requisite time nor resources to call a bi-election; our annual elections were literally two months away. The Board of the day decided to appoint interim Directors of Services and Academics to ensure that important services to students were maintained. The UVSS bylaws limit the board to appointing existing directors of the society in such circumstances. As such, Joanna Groves and Jude Coates volunteered to interrupt their studies to assist with the work of the society.

Bylaws are intended to be subject to interpretation, as, like legislation, they simply cannot foresee every possible eventuality. In fact, a precedent was set on this issue in 1997 when the independent Chief Electoral Officer interpreted the bylaw to limit candidates to two full elected terms. Joanna Groves was elected to an executive director position for the first time in May 2003.

Scott Payne
Director of Services, UVSS

Dear Editor of *the Martlet*,

I am very disappointed by *the Martlet's* decision to publish so rude and disrespectful an editorial as the one about Joanna Groves last week. While it is perfectly legitimate to publish editorials questioning Ms. Groves' right to stay on the board beyond two years or even asking her to resign over the issue, it is completely unprofessional to publish an article whose entire message is dictated by ad hominems against Ms. Groves. There is no room in our campus newspapers for hateful or defamatory screeds like the one published last week. It was just plain mean and rude. Shame on the author for writing it, and shame on *the Martlet* for wasting the paper it was printed on.

Jan A. Grauman Neander

As a UVic alumni and *Martlet* reader, I wanted to express my disgust with the opinion article, "Joanna Groves Can't Count" which you misguidedly included in your most recent issue.

John Thompson's article reads like a schoolboy spurned by the girl he likes rather than an honest opinion piece that adds something of value to the paper and its readers.

If my memory serves, John Thompson wrote an article entitled "Groves disregards policy" about this same topic only weeks ago (March 4 edition of *the Martlet*).

This leads me to believe that *the Martlet's* editorial staff are writing opinion articles to air their own grievances and agendas. It is shoddy journalism at best, but could more accurately be described as unethical. I am incredibly disappointed. I expected more from *the Martlet.*

I encourage you and your staff to use more discretion in the articles you write and publish–even in the opinion section.

Don't waste space and our time with drivel such as, "Joanna Groves Can't Count."

Besides, Joanna Groves may be an "English geek" who can't count, but at least she's not a newspaper editor that can't spell "calendar."

Lindsay Baker

Ironic 'feel good' crap

I quote from the editorial page of the March 18 edition of *the Martlet* with the "Canada is not in the habit of practicing expansionism, and definitely not to the degree that some of the other nations of the world can be accused of. . . . It's not as if we had taken our military and conquered them, or applied political pressure on them to get them to join. We seem to have a history of doing the opposite in fact."

If I need to say anything more about the irony of this, you desperately need to take a course in Canadian history and to stop reading all the "feel good" crap the Liberals spew at us about our foreign policy.

Darryl Phaneuf

UVSS apologizes for offensive comedy show

Tuesday March 16 Felicita's held the first of three Comedy nights. During the performance several comedians made remarks that were inappropriate, rude and/or offensive which did offend some customers and staff.

The UVSS board and management work hard to create a safe and fun atmosphere in Felicita's and regret this incident. We sincerely apologize to our staff and customers that were offended. We have voiced our concerns to the promoter of the Comedy Feast and will work to avoid a similar situation happening again.

We hope that everyone will come and enjoy next Tuesday's Comedy night and if things go well, Comedy Night may become a regular feature at Felicita's. Please let us know what you think. If you have any further comments or concerns please do not hesitate to e-mail drobertson@ uvic.uvss.ca.

Dale Robertson
Business Operations
Manager, UVSS

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Martlet is published every Thursday.

Free famed eco-activist Tre Arrow

On the FBI's Most Wanted list, his penalty will be harsh if he's extradited to the U.S.

BY JEFF ANDREW

Last week, Tre Arrow made a mistake–the American environmental activist and international fugitive was arrested at the Canadian Tire on Douglas Street in Victoria trying to shoplift a pair of bolt cutters.

He will pay dearly for this fuck-up. Charged with setting fire to three logging trucks in Oregon, he's been on the FBI's Most Wanted list for three years and will likely be given a harsh penalty if he's extradited to the United States.

This must not happen.

Arrow began his passage into legend in the summer of 2000, when he ran up a tree after the U.S. Forest Service raided a protest blockade in Oregon's Eagle Creek forest. A climber with a chainsaw went up the tree after him, cutting the branches as he went, hoping to force Arrow to come down.

Instead, Arrow ran to the edge of a long branch and jumped, landing in the next tree. The climber went up after him, and the flying squirrel routine was repeated. Arrow was finally caught when authorities cut down all the trees around him, preventing his escape through the roof of the forest.

When he was released he went straight to the U.S. Forest Service building in Portland and climbed to a nine-inch ledge on the third story. He stayed up there for 11 days, drawing national media attention. That autumn, he ran for U.S. Congress in Oregon with the Green Party.

Since then, he's been labelled an "eco-terrorist" and has spent two years on the run from the FBI.

The phrase "eco-terrorist" is taken very seriously in the United States. In 2001, a young activist named Jeffrey "Free" Luers was given a 22-year sentence for setting fire to three SUVs at a dealership in Oregon. Total damage was estimated at $40,000.

The Earth Liberation Front, with which Arrow is associated, boasts over $100 million of property damage to car dealerships, construction sites and university labs researching GMO crops. Despite the fact that no one has ever been hurt, the ELF is high on the FBI's list of domestic terrorists.

Here in B.C., Minister of Forests Mike de Jong used the phrase last November during a speech in Prince George, when environmental groups took out full-page ads in Chinese newspapers bashing B.C. logging techniques.

"It's time to take on these 'eco-terrorists', time to fight back and let them know that we are going to take it to them, time to fight those who are trying to kill our jobs and our communities," he said.

His casual use of violent imagery echoes the increasingly vicious physical and legal threats activists are facing. Here is a partial list:

• Julia Butterfly Hill, who spent two years at the top of a 200-foot California Redwood in the late 1990s, was nearly killed in the early days of her tree-sit when company workers felled neighbouring trees to strike the one she was in.

• The standoff at Elk Creek, near Chilliwack, is into its sixth month of conflict. Activists have been attacked by forestry workers in the woods while the RCMP stands guard on the roadside.

• Here on Vancouver Island, 75-year-old grandmother Betty Krawzcyk was charged with criminal contempt of court and spent six months in prison for blockading a logging road in the Upper Walbran Valley.

• At Cathedral Grove, Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection Bill Barisoff is pushing to have local citizens arrested on criminal charges for blocking the destruction of old-growth trees to build a new parking lot.

"Terrorist"–the phrase has lost all meaning. Arrow and Luers' use of destructive force to make a political statement means they loosely fit the word's definition. But the idea that they can be compared to Osama bin Laden or Timothy McVeigh is absurd. Arrow and Luers never hurt anyone.

Canada should take a stand and refuse to extradite Tre Arrow. Someday we will look back on this time and see people like him, Luers and Krawzcyk as heroes instead of criminals. While their methods may differ, they stand together in opposing the destruction we've wreaked on the planet.

In the meantime, Tre Arrow–who was known for walking barefoot in the forest, even during heavy storms–will lose his freedom to taste the life he fought for. He will take his place in the prison system, caught in the machine, another activist criminalized.

Offensive comedian nothing to laugh at

Sexism, ableism, homophobia and racism are not acceptable at UVic pub or anywhere

BY JEANNIE COATES

A March 16 comedy show in UVic's campus pub, Felicita's, shocked audience members with its discriminatory and extremely offensive content.

For those of you who abandoned your beer and your conversation following the first few obscene performers–you can count yourself lucky. The main act, Tim Koslo, provided a show that reminded those present exactly why sexism, ableism, homophobia and racism are not funny.

I was personally shocked by Koslo's offensive content and felt it was an encroachment on my intelligence, and a great disappointment that such derogatory ignorance would be considered a point of attraction in our own campus pub. With sheer disbelief I recognized that not only were many people laughing in enjoyment, but that I and many others were laughing in order to relieve our discomfort. When the discrimination escalated to a level that no one would consider appropriate, even as "satire," I knew it was wrong. But I said nothing.

I managed to convince myself that I was overreacting. How else could the other audience members' laughter be explained?

Then someone else spoke up in opposition to the racist comments. She told the comedian exactly what I and many of the uneasy laughers understood–that he was wrong. He clearly didn't understand the implications of his actions and demonstrated so by using his microphone and his distasteful wit to assault her. For those of you who laughed at this, you were fooled by his defense.

Koslo claimed that by performing overtly racist behaviors in a satirical way, he was deconstructing the stereotypes and dangers of racism. He was not. He was perpetuating racism in a most insidious way.

By mixing racism with humour he was normalizing it, making us comfortable in the face of discriminatory stereotypes. Every psychology student knows that laughing makes people comfortable, it eases the tension of social situations. Koslo brought our guard down with his humour, effectively blurring the lines between entertainment and racism. He was making it easier for us to dismiss and thus perpetuate racism the next time it tried to find a venue, and the time after that . . . and the time after that.

For the girl who spoke out, and for all of you who left or felt uneasy with the situation–you were right. Racism, sexism, ableism and homophobia are not funny. And for the girl who tried to make him stop, you were right to do so, and we should all have supported you . . . next time I will.

U.S. anarchist disappointed with Canada

'American corporations have invaded the Canadian economy'

BY FORD WALKER

When deciding on where to continue my studies, I knew one thing–I did not want to stay in the States.

I was tired of the ridiculous war on terror, the war on minors, war on minorities, war on practically everything. I decided to look beyond the border, with hopes of finding my Mecca.

I thought I found my new home when I applied to study at the University of Victoria.

I saw this move as that of a pseudo political refugee. Granted, I consider myself an anarchist, but any government has to be better than the States, right?

Well, having now lived here for two years, I have come to the conclusion that Canada is not the holy place I had once thought it to be–a place where I could be free from capitalist imperialism.

Every day, I hear Canadians exclaim, "Wow, did you hear what crazy old Bush said in his State of the Union address?" Or, "I can't believe I paid nine bucks for these smokes! In the States [where they rob, cheat and steal to maintain low prices] they're only four bucks!"

And for Christ's sake, could Canadian politicians bow to American foreign policy even more? The rhetorical answer is no. At least Chrétien decided to be a punk-ass and legalize marijuana, but Canada's newly esteemed Prime Minister seems like he came straight from the Republican convention. And I don't even need to mention Campbell, but I'm going to anyway. My god, a politician getting caught for D.U.I. and then getting off with little penalty! Sounds like American politics to me.

Why can the States do whatever the fuck they want with Canadian resources? American corporations have invaded the Canadian economy, raping and pillaging for all they can take. While one might argue that this has only benefited the Canadian financial market, the truth is that Canada itself has little say in the matter. As soon as all the beautiful resources of Canada have been depleted, this country is gonna be shit outta luck when it comes to finding a new economy.

The feeling that I get from daily life in Victoria is that there is no real distinguishable difference between the States and Canada. I expected Canadians to be proud of their country, for Canada to be an individual and independent nation. Instead, I find myself in the 51st state. Okay, that's not fair, at least if it were actually the 51st state, American corporations wouldn't be allowed to shit all over the place, blaming Canada for every problem from mad cow to energy, and tar this fabulous country from head to toe. Instead, what happens is a complete disrespect for any notion that Canada is a nation.

But what do Canadians do? Do they revolt, tired of imperialism, like the Zapatistas, the American Indian Movement or the Louis Riel rebellion of days of old? Arms aren't even necessary; Canadians just have to say "no" only once for Americans to realize that they aren't fucking around anymore. But this once proud nation has been brought into complacency. This is why America is allowed to do what it wants.

I say it's about time Canadians do something about it.

"Crisp Apples Not People," say local group Food Not Bombs. During the first Gulf War, the U.S. dropped 85,000 tons of bombs on Iraq.

Music, art and activism: mixing it up on the back steps of the Legislature.

Erik Haensel photos

Leading the charge for peace, a trombonist rocks the March 21 Rally in downtown Victoria.

Peac

by Erik Haensel

"I'm talking to Sohad," sobs Deanna Dean. "She was just on the phone with her parents in Baghdad. They were crying, and then the line went dead."

"Shock and awe"–George W. Bush's phrase for the massive bombing campaign that marked the opening of the American Invasion of Iraq. At a peace vigil on March 19 last year, at the corner of Cook and Pandora on a grassy strip called Harris Green, there was definitely some shock, but no awe. Mostly horror and sadness.

"She says that the city is on fire," continues Deanna. "Everything is thunder and fire."

Devastation. For the 35 sombre faces standing in a semi-circle in the darkness of a wet Victoria night, hopes are smashing into the ground like depleted uranium-coated Patriot missiles. These "precision missiles" smash into their targets and incinerate, causing uranium, recycled from nuclear reactors, to become airborne. They contaminate drinking water, air, food crops and burned flesh. Precision bombing.

Shock and awe.

I feel dislocated and defeated. Attacking Iraq makes so little sense to me, it's hard not to feel like I'm going crazy. My mind harkens back over the last two months of frantic peace work: we were going to stop this war.

Right now everything in my mind spins. Nothing seems to add up. Then an aboriginal woman in her thirties grabs my arm and pulls me forward into an embrace, her black hair floating out behind her.

"Hi, I'm Rosa," she says. Her brown eyes glint, looking deep into mine. And then she moves on to my left to hug Jesson. At the same moment a man next to me embraces me and introduces himself.

Everyone is walking around the circle introducing themselves to each other. I smile and look beside me to Danielle, thinking of the protests and information tables, the friendships forged. She squeezes my hand weakly, but emphatically.

I look over to Jesson, standing immobile and expressionless. Such a contrast to the animated figure that only days ago was striding across the UVic campus with a hopeful confident smile, handing out leaflets and information sheets.

One of these sheets was about depleted uranium. . . .

"It has a radioactive half-life of 4.5 billion years. The Earth is 4.5 billion years old. This means that the cities, battlefields, and locations where depleted uranium is used will be radioactive and remain radioactive for the next 4.5 billion years. That's as long as the Earth has existed. That's twice as long as the entire evolution of life on Earth. Seventy times longer than the time since the dinosaurs became extinct."

Sohad Kadhun, who is still on the phone with a sobbing Deanna, knows about depleted uranium. She was a student in Iraq during the 1991 Gulf War, one of the first times the United States has used the missiles en masse. Since 1991 cancer rates in some regions have jumped by over 600 per cent, and two of Sohad's relatives have contracted the disease.

The pamphlet's author, Guy Dauncey, was one of the keynote speakers at the March 5 Walkout For Peace held at UVic in 2003. At that rally Dauncey, a local environmentalist and author, handed out copies of his newest work, *101 Ways to Stop the War on Iraq*.

As a member of Students Against War, a club that began that September, I think we tried them all.

Victoria awoke on March 5, 2003 to a combination of howling winds, rain, sleet and fog. Arriving at the university early in the morning to set up, I realize that we've forgotten to plan for bad weather.

It is 10 a.m., two hours before the event. Our tarp is blowing straight up, 10 feet into the air, crashing down on top of everyone on the stage, showering water everywhere. I am perched on top of a chair, clenching a knife between my teeth, clinging to string and duct tape in one hand, and holding the tarp with the other.

We need a back up plan.

Out by the main stage people begin to gather, some with placards, some with their lunch. And then there it is: the march. Hundreds of students pouring out from behind the Clearihue Building, led by Nicole and Michele, our two snake-march leaders who had taken separate routes through campus before connecting at the UVic fountain.

Master of ceremonies Scott Payne introduces Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford, a hero of mine, and then NDP leader Joy McPhail. After their speeches Scott urges the crowd to enter the SUB to continue the "Celebration of the Prospects of Peace" in the Cinecenta theatre.

The most effective method of bringing people together in opposition to the war is celebration. When events are festive, the next events are larger. When they aren't, numbers dwindle. I can relate. Too many anti-war events end on depressing notes, demoralizing their participants.

The March 5 event has a huge impact on my emotional state. It makes me optimistic about the future. Obviously, not because I think that 500 students in a theatre are going to convince the U.S. not to attack Iraq, but because I am high on the feeling created by the event. Hundreds of compassionate people interacting together, their differences overshadowed by the impending war.

These moments of hope keep the peace movement going.

"All we are saying...is give peace a chance."

One year later, Noam Chomsky speaks about the current state of Iraq, March 20, 2004 in Vancouver.

And as Sohad explained to me, they help keep the people of Iraq sane.

"If it were not for the protests, we would think that all Canadians and all Americans wanted to kill us," she said, sitting on the steps of the legislature after a March 15 rally. "Canada is a democracy, we in Iraq think that their government does what the people want."

These words echo through my head for the next two days. They've given me a whole new take on protesting. If the Iraqi people see Canadians and Americans out on the streets, then they know that Jean Chretien and George Bush don't actually speak for all of us.

It's Monday, March 17, just after 5 p.m. I walk into the packed Graduate Lounge and the words "events in Iraq have now reached their final days of decision," tumble from George Bush's mouth. "The danger is clear: using chemical, biological or, one day, nuclear weapons, obtained with the help of Iraq, the terrorists could fulfill their stated ambitions and kill thousands or hundreds of thousands of innocent people in our country, or any other."

I shiver with revulsion. Not with shock or anger–I have spent those emotions long ago–but revulsion at his ability and willingness to misrepresent the truth in hope of escalating a situation to violence.

Next a brilliant oxymoronic statement of purpose: "We must attack now, before they can attack the innocent and destroy the peace."

I wonder, who really are the innocent in all this? What is this peace that we are killing to protect? What does it look like, how is it perceived by people around the world?

Does Sohad's family feel as though they live in peace? In the 1991 Gulf War, when Sohad was a student at the University of Baghdad, the U.S. dropped 85,000 tons of bombs on Iraq. I think of the conversation we had a couple days earlier, sitting on the legislature steps.

"[The university] was 24 kilometres from my home," she said. "After the bombings I had to walk to the university and all I could see was rubble."

She continued, gesturing at the imposing concrete buildings surrounding us, conveying with her eyes the horror of what bombing really means.

"You know, it's impossible for you to imagine what happens," she said. "All the buildings down, bridges gone . . . everything really, everything big was in pieces."

After the war the U.S. and the UN Security Council decided to topple Saddam Hussein's dictatorship with 10 years of sanctions that, as Sohad explained to me, prevented cancer patients from receiving treatment, prevented water purification, prevented access to basic nutrition and many other essential goods.

To me it seems very clear that "peace," as George Bush understands it, is about more than just non-violence, or toppling a dictator.

George Bush talks as if it is "us versus them."

If that is the case, I hope he considers me as one of them.

Realistically though, I am one of us, one of the privileged first world consumers whose very lifestyle depends on heaps of fossil fuels, clean water and manufactured goods made by poorly paid foreign and migrant workers. It is on behalf of my lifestyle that Iraq is being invaded.

Securing the peace is about enforcing a certain type of trade relationship. A type of relationship in which first world nations buy natural resources cheaply from companies in third world nations, and then ship those resources to other third world countries to be manufactured, before selling them back to the original country. Meanwhile the first world economies, the perpetual middlemen, skim the cream off every crop.

As Indian author Arundhati Roy claims: "It's become clear that the war against terror is not really about terror, and the war on Iraq not only about oil. It's about a superpower's self-destructive impulse towards supremacy, stranglehold, global hegemony.

The argument is being made that the people of Argentina and Iraq have both been decimated by the same process. Only the weapons used against them differ: In one case it's an [International Monetary Fund] chequebook. In the other, cruise missiles."

The motivation is economic. North America is a resource-driven economy without enough of our own resources. They have to come from somewhere.

How else could we justify bombing Sohad's family with only the slim evidence about "weapons of mass destruction"? How else could 10 years of sanctions, which killed over one million people, not be seen as genocide?

My reflections are interrupted as Deanna makes her way across Harris Green over to me. "Sohad says hi," she says, talking through tears.

I smile, and recognize the small victory that we have achieved. All these months we were trying to fight this war with public opinion, letters to the Prime Minister, and demonstrations. Really, the most important thing that we accomplished was the creation of this tightly knit community. A community made up of people from diverse ethnic backgrounds, with diverse political beliefs and interests.

Suddenly I have a new vision for peaceful resistance to war. We must disrupt the daily violence with peaceful communities.

I turn to Jesson and tell him that we should set up a peace camp at UVic. A community of people who have come together to mark the horror of the attack.

"Sure," he says. Then his eyes light up and he smiles. "You mean with tents, and music, and a camp fire."

"Yep."

Since that night, I have looked at resisting violence differently. It has become less about forming the right argument than embarking on an exploration.

I spent most of my time at the Peace Camp over the next two weeks discussing what peace really meant, learning from new friends and acquaintances ways of being in the world that better accommodated difference, and challenging myself to make ethical purchases that did not support companies linked to the war effort.

For me the peace movement is about realizing Gandhi's ethic: "Be the change you want to see in the world." Early in the year we had a debate with some organizers from another anti-war group, the International Socialists, over the publicizing of our events. They wondered why we would only print on 100 per cent tree-free paper.

"It costs so much more," organizer Eric Lescarbeau said.

I explained my environmental motivations.

"Oh, ya I know," said Eric. "But this is a problem caused by capitalism. Once capitalism is removed, then things can change."

For me this misses the point completely. Selfish consumerism is precisely what is causing our governments to attack, militarily or economically, less powerful countries. Our society is completely unable to sustain itself on its own resource pool, and so it needs to dip into others.

Could Sohad's family and her neighbours live the same lifestyle that I do? If everyone on this planet consumed the same resources as a typical North American, we would need at least four Earths just to survive.

If I have learned anything from the peace movement, it is that shortsighted selfishness is the main cause of destruction on this planet. We need to act with peoples' futures in mind–the people of Iraq, as well as our own.

When depleted uranium shells are fired into the desert in Basra, Iraq, it affects all of us. Radioactive nuclear waste does not distinguish between terrorists and peaceful civilians. The radiation that we fire into that desert will enter into our air and drinking water eventually.

It probably already has. And unlike carbon monoxide, it cannot be processed by trees or any other living organism. It will exist as a cancer-causing agent for 3.5 billion years.

And they call them precision missiles.

ce & war

Coyote is a storyteller with disarming charm

BY ZOË BAKE-PATERSON

PROVIDED PHOTO

Ivan E. Coyote says she doesn't remember when she first began storytelling. A vague "sometime in the early '90s" covers the earliest shows. She does remember an early experience at a cabaret show where she had to follow the Absolute Elvis act–a man who did an Elvis impersonation and stripped, then lit his g-string on fire, which is a tough act to follow. But Coyote–writer, columnist and live storyteller–is an act of her own, and one that is very hard to forget.

A cowboy-cocky, lawn-mowing, plaid-jacket-wearing woman from the Yukon, Coyote is sometimes written off as a queer writer, but only once people have figured out whether she is gay or lesbian–she says she is frequently mistaken for a man. Standing tall in her button-down striped dress shirt and jeans, Coyote is a handsome figure, regardless of gender.

Yes, she is a lesbian. Yes, she is fairly outspoken about it. But it doesn't really come up in Coyote's work. She certainly doesn't conform to the stereotype that "queer writing" must be erotica.

"A lot of my stuff isn't queer, other than the perspective of the narrator," says Coyote. "I don't write about sex, it's not what interests me as a writer. Writing about sex is like reading [about sex]–it's a lot more fun to do it."

An award-winning writer with more than three books to her name (including *Boys Like Her, Close to Spider Man* and *One Man's Trash*), Coyote has a lot to say. She came to Victoria to speak at the Michèle Pujol Lesbian and Allies Walk at UVic, and to speak to a lesbian studies class offered by the Women's Studies department entitled "Sinister Wisdom." Not surprisingly, she drew a crowd at both events, for Ivan E. Coyote has a gift. She has a disarming and direct way of telling a story so that the listener can't avoid becoming engaged.

"I have a tongue memory, or a brain memory. It's like playing a guitar lick over and over again until you play without thinking," she says, about her melodic and direct way of speaking. "I'm a big memory person."

Most of the stories she tells and writes are about Coyote herself. She says this makes it easier for her to recite her stories without ad-libbing.

"I am the opposite of ad-lib. I talk about a story at length . . . ad nauseum, and then I write it down," says Coyote. "I'm hardly ever ad-libbing. It's a very scary thing for me."

To hear her tell a story, it is hard to imagine how the words could carry such energy on paper. For example, in telling the story "Older Woman," she breathes life into the characters by adding voices, emotion and attitude. At the moment where her neighbour Alfred, believing she is a young man, gives her a lecture about girlfriends, her talent for capturing people becomes obvious:

"You realize a woman's love is like a fly?" He raised an eyebrow at me. "And just like a fly, her love is just as likely to land on a pile of shit as it is a rose." He took out his hanky, blew his nose, and stuffed it into the front pocket of his trousers. "What I mean is, don't ask yourself why a beautiful girl might love you, just be glad she picked you to love."

Coyote's words pull at the heart. She takes ordinary days and makes them bold, confused and naturally sexy. Harsh and complex subjects like gay-bashing, homophobia, personal rules to keep safe, the confusion of mistaken gender and cross-dressing are punched up with humour to make each point sink in a little more. It's easy to laugh at an image of her mouthing off at some homophobic jerk, yet there is a poignancy in realizing the inherent fear and danger. Her own eyes water during a story about her godson Frances, revealing how real and personal these pieces are.

But if the topics get heavy, or too reminiscent, Coyote always manages to throw in the detail that makes her writing come alive, like the lines in "Trick Road Trip" (from *One's Man Trash*): "Life was almost perfect, until yesterday when I found a black polyester shirt with yellow and red sparkly flames all over it, and now it is sublime."

Ivan E. Coyote has a column in the biweekly Vancouver paper Xtra West! *She is at work on a new novel.*

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Espresso jolts the heart

BY SARAH PETRESCU

Lucia Frangione had me in tears after just 10 minutes.

When I swapped stories with the Vancouver playwright about our shared Italian heritage, similar stereotypes we'd both faced as Italian-Canadians had us laughing hysterically.

"People always assume when you're Italian you're this totally passionate person–who can cook well, of course," said Frangione.

Frangione said she felt like a novelty growing up in Red Deer, Alberta–a city where there weren't many Italians around. She moved west to pursue her theatre ambitions at Langara College's Studio 58 theatre program, and has since established herself as an up-and-coming actor and playwright.

With her latest work *Espresso*, playing as part of the Belfry Theatre's Uno Festival, Frangione gleans inspiration from her Italian heritage and plunges into her personal life–so deeply, in fact, that some of her family members are unable to watch the play.

"This is the most personal thing I've done," said Frangione about *Espresso*. "I was scared to do it at first, because there was a lot I had to admit–especially about myself."

The premise for *Espresso* came to Frangione after her father was in a major car accident that lacerated his heart. A lacerated heart is highly sensitive to any stimuli–such as caffeine or strong emotions–that may increase palpitations and bring on a heart attack. Frangione said the time her father spent recovering was tremendously tense and traumatic, but the playwright in her was fascinated.

KEVIN CLARK PHOTO

Co-star Todd Thomson is perhaps attempting to view playwright/actor Lucia Frangione and her "two fawns, twins of a gazelle, that feed among the lilies."

"It was a time and situation that gripped me, I couldn't help but write about it," said Frangione.

Espresso is a dark comedy, playing on Italian stereotypes and the seriousness of mortality, and all the characters are played by Frangione and Todd Thomson.

"Not every guy can play an Italian gino, an 80-year-old and Jesus Christ," said Frangione of her stage partner.

The play has been nominated for seven Jessie Awards and sold out two consecutive runs in Vancouver. Frangione will tour her play around eastern Canada after its Victoria run.

Espresso is the story of how a brutal car accident forces three feisty women to unite for the one man they love and to confront the differences between them. Vito's estranged daughter Rosa, raw-witted ex-wife Cinzella and darkly humourous mother Nonna come together to explore their family's history and the demons that face them. Amante, Italian for "lover," is a shifting character who plays a spiritual figure and quotes from the Songs of Solomon to each woman.

"I wanted to explore women's spiritualities in a time of crisis, but also to mix that with the sensual mysticism that inspired me from the Songs of Solomon–basically an ancient Hebrew sex manual the Bible eventually appropriated," said Frangione.

Growing up Catholic, Frangione said sex was never presented to her as a "good thing" and that silence veiled the expression of many women in her family. She tackles these issues head-on through the spiritual struggles of Rosa (a character very much based on herself), delving into how sensuality fits in and where powerful women fit into a culture that is traditionally patriarchal.

"This play is about revealing the truth, the whole thing, and surviving disasters, said Frangione. "There's so many things Italians don't talk about and things that get lost between the generations."

Perhaps *Espresso* is the best way of revealing these secrets, these doves behind the veil.

Espresso *plays at the Belfry Theatre until March 28.*

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UVic boy band makes mischief

by Max Lamb

Compliments of the Phoenix Theatre, the Victoria-based rock group Making Mischief is one of the catchiest sounds heard since the classic works of Green Day. Sitting somewhere in the bridge between emo music and pop punk, they have the potential to be one of the greatest pop sounds we ever forgot about.

The band consists entirely of UVic theatre students. Leading the band with vocals and lead guitar is Mitch Pollock, a clear disciple of the Andrew W.K. wave. Backup vocals and guitar are courtesy of Cameron Anderson, who can be seen showing his vocal talents in next years Phoenix Theatre production of *Guys and Dolls*. Mike Klemak provides the group with solid drumming and a well-needed dose of facial hair. On bass guitar is Mack Gordon, whose good looks alone could sell the band into rock stardom.

"We're like a hockey team, we all have different roles to play," says Gordon. "There's Mike on drums as the enforcer, and Mitch on the lead as the team captain and all around performer. We got Cam on the left wing as the sniper, and me on the back providing some solid defence."

The group formed together earlier this year in order to enter in a battle of the bands. "We were walking down the street, and we saw a poster on a telephone pole asking for bands to sign up for the Battle of the Bands at Lucky Bar," says Pollock. He and Klemark had been jamming together for about a year, and Anderson and Gordon joined on. "Mack and I were in separate bands when we were in Kelowna, so we already knew each other."

Gordon has the most refined playing style in the group, plucking each chord with precision timing and unbelievable speed. He has had his share of experience with other bands as well, but is comfortable with the songwriting process found in Making Mischief.

"I've walked out [on] a lot of songwriters. Some people don't like suggestions given to them about how their songs should be played. It's good with Mitch because he really takes suggestions well. It's good with Cam, because he's got a nice self-deprecating sense of humour. That's usually my job."

Apart from cheesy hockey analogies and self-deprecating wit, the band also has a fair share of cheese in their songs. The track "I Wanna be Jon Bon Jovi," is a testament to this. It has a corny one-hit-wonder beat to it, as well as some lyrical comedy: "He's got the hair, the clothes he wears, his guitarist fucks Heather Locklear, I wanna be Jon Bon Jovi." While something this obviously corny comes across as candy pop punk flavouring, the lyrics originate from the distance between a little boy and his rock idol. Pollock says "Everybody thinks this song is a joke. I ran into somebody that said 'You're so tongue and cheek with Jovi,' but it's more than just a catchy beat. He lives the rock star life and dreams I've always hoped and wished for."

There's no way to classify Making Mischief as a specific form of rock, as all of their songs completely different from each other.

On the band's release, *Recess is Over*, Pollock has written six tracks that differ in speed, sound and vocal technique. The first track, "Blue Line," kicks off the CD with a Weezer-inspired rock rhythm with no less than 24 emo wails ("Whooaah!"). "Goodbye Phoenix" follows as the second track with obvious angst towards UVic's Phoenix Theatre. Pollock is in his fourth and final year in the acting program. "It's funny that the place you spend the best four years of your life is also the place that churns out the most anger. I was angry with something in the program, and writing this song really helped me get out of that situation.

Nadia Aly photo

The Phoenix Theatre boy band Making Mischief is composed of Mack Gordon, Mitch Pollock, Mike Klemack and Cameron Anderson.

There is also a sadness in the song about leaving. It's kind of depressing."

The fifth and arguably the best track on the record is "Chemical," which could be a massive radio hit if it conquered its over-poppy sound. The song is simple rock fare, but it's the one you'll find yourself humming on the bus and in the shower. The chorus manages to take a simple rhyme scheme and master it with the subtle irresistibility in Pollock's singing.

The band's name, Making Mischief, derives from a jam session between Klemak and Pollock. They left the window open when they were playing, and a neighbour called the police to silence them. The cops gave them a warning, and informed them that if they were forced to come back, they would arrest them and charge them with "Mischief." The original album title was "Banned on Fifth Street," as that was the street to which Pollock and Klemak were interrogated, but was changed to "Recess is Over."

The band has an upcoming show at Lucky Bar, and their live sound is not to be missed. Making Mischief's music is the kind that is meant to be played live and loud–if you experience their rock rendition of All Saints' "Pure Shores," you'd know.

With their poppy, sweet sound, there is an element of pure fun that exists in every track. It's easy for indie rock to be forgotten, considering the recent overload of nickel-and-dime pop bands. You may not remember the name Making Mischief, but the music will stick. Their songs will linger in the corner of your head, and there will be no way to stop it.

Making Mischief plays at Lucky Bar on March 30.

Mays may induce drowsiness

by John Thompson

Matt Mays is a dozy, amiable surfer boy from the east coast who appears to be speeding up.

The 24-year-old guitarist from Halifax began to turn heads when he won the North by Northeast Music Festival's rising star award for 2003, and then toured with the much-hyped indie rocker Sam Roberts. Now Mays is taking his alt.country across Canada in a 1998 Chevy Express van with his backup band El Torpedo. It's a good thing they're with him, otherwise there's a worry that he'd fall asleep at the wheel.

The acoustic guitar and Mays' own lulling vocals on his self-titled solo album are pleasant enough to listen to, but most lack a punchy drumbeat or bass line to pull themselves forward. Imagine sitting in a darkly lit bar, cloaked in a cotton hoodie and the numbing effects of two pitchers of beer. Everything's blurring a bit, including the music played from the stage. Songs like "Lonely Highway Night" or "Back Home Weather" would fit in well here, but it doesn't make for a late night. Like that foamy pitcher of beer, Mays' solo efforts have to be classified, in drug terms, as a downer.

Other songs on the album have a closer affinity with a warm glass of milk that's drank before curling beneath the covers of bed. Mays himself sounds like he's drowsing off during "Fully July Moon," where he sleepily croons "gotta get moving," as the album comes to a close.

Enter El Torpedo, along with Mays' new life on the road. His lyrical preoccupation about not being in a hurry must sound like wishful thinking now, as he crosses Canada to play 18 shows in 24 days. A life of touring may have become the norm for Mays, but he says it's never mundane.

"It never feels like a job. It always feels like a weird warp zone," he says.

Lately he's been listening to music by fellow Maritimers, like Al Tuck and hip-hop artist Buck 65. His idol? "It's always been Neil Young, and I think it always will be."

Matt Mays will play on March 29 at the Central Bar and Grill.

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Jersey Girl is one chick you don't wanna do

by Briony Smith

For years, films have been created that hinge on tired premises–the roadtrip movie, the mismatched-cops-who-grudgingly-grow-to-respect-each-other movie, the volcano/tsunami/hurricane disaster movie. It is unfortunate that talented director Kevin Smith has chosen the small-child-who-validates-the-life-of-a-cold-hearted-businessman film as his latest project.

The film centres on Ollie Trinke (Ben Affleck), a public relations ace who is the typical boor who chooses his career over his beautiful wife (Jennifer Lopez)–she is given the thankless task of "Being Angry that Her Husband Always Works Late" and is saddled with the big childbirth scene. She dies of an aneurysm while giving birth to their daughter, leaving Ollie a reluctant father. To add insult to injury, Ollie makes a big gaffe at a press conference–circa the mid-'90s, he calls Will Smith a one-hit wonder who will never amount to anything, and calls the press assembled a bunch of "jerkoffs." He promptly gets fired and is blacklisted in the PR industry. He is forced to move back to New Jersey, where he lives with his cantankerous father (George Carlin).

Ollie is clearly not cut out for fatherhood–he lets his daughter cry endlessly and has no qualms about dumping her on his father while he frantically tries to regain the glamourous life that he has lost.

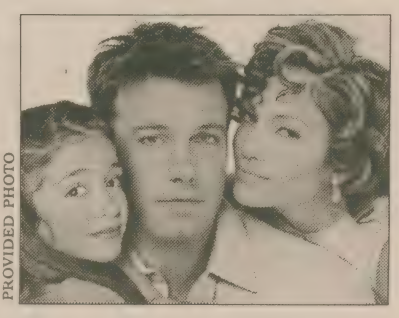
The film concentrates mostly on the year when Gertie (Raquel Castro) is six, a time when Ollie is having a blast being a dad, but suffering in his post as a street maintenance man. His loathing of New Jersey is complicated by the bond he shares with his father, as well as his burgeoning romance with the kooky yet beautiful video store clerk Maya (Liv Tyler).

This is where the film slips into being predictable. Smith, long known for being low-key in his direction, counts on his whip-like wit and hilarious back-and-forth between the oddly loveable goofs that populate his movies. Jersey Girl is a premise movie–it can be summed up in a phrase, and thus it needs colourful characterization, big laughs and amazing writing to elevate it above its gimmick. When the audience knows what's going to happen from the moment the credits roll, they need a lot of entertaining diversions along the way to make the movie fun rather than formulaic, and Smith doesn't deliver these bright spots nearly enough.

There is only one scene that has even a shadow of Smith's trademark tongue-in-cheek humour, which features a bemused bespectacled Tyler quizzing Affleck about his porn habits. The rest of the move does not have enough patently raucous Smith moments to buoy the film–it marches from predictable confrontation to predictable schmaltz.

It is sad that a writer as talented as Smith could not choose fresher subject matter, or at least try to elevate the material into something special. He has obviously tried to make a more dignified film with subject matter that he cares about–the screenplay is based on his own experiences as a dad. Sadly, the originality that the viewer has come to expect from Smith is painfully absent.

There is one scene, featuring Ollie and another dad (a big-name actor in a beautifully played cameo) rapping about what it is to be a father, that shows Smith's talent in crafting dialogue. It has the beauty of Silent Bob's speech about lost love in *Chasing Amy* or Chris Rock's discussion of faith in *Dogma*. If the movie had more of this, it could have survived as something more than the shade above a hack-job it is.



PROVIDED PHOTO

It seems all the ladies want to cozy up to Ben Affleck's meaty head, Raquel Castro and Jennifer Lopez included.

While Smith is admirable in trying to break out of the Askewniverse, his attempt at a serious film lacks what makes him great. Smith's writing is what makes him a real talent, and he should stick to inventing his own premises, rather than using such a shop-worn plot.

The art of beer talk

by Zoë Bake-Paterson and Ford Walker

Beer dates back to the Pyramids–it has been discovered in ancient Egyptian tombs–making it one of the oldest beverages in history. Found in multiple countries around the world and made in as many different styles, it is no wonder that beer is making a splashy appearance at UVic.

For the first time in UVic history, the UVSS is putting on a beer tasting event in the SUB, bringing together seven different breweries offering 25 different brews.

The main advertised feature of this event is the low, low cost of getting plastered–Beerology 101 costs $5 for entrance, and features "taster" cups for only a buck. The list of breweries is definitely going to draw a large crowd: Molson, Big Rock, Lighthouse, Vancouver Island, Labatt, Sleeman and Okanagan Springs. With each brewery bringing about four varieties of beer, the Michèle Pujol is gonna be packed with beer.

People really do care about their beer at UVic. Although Felicita's server Jamie Crowder says that the most popular beer is what's on special, he also says that people have favourites.

"Herman's Dark has the largest following," says Crowder. But bartender Dave Dickson says the current favourite at Felicita's is Sleeman's Honey Brown, which just arrived a month or so ago.

While Felicita's patrons are excited about the new arrivals at the campus bar, one of the coordinators of the event, John Becker, says that he is very excited about this event because of a decline in popularity of UVSS-held events.

"I hope that this [event] will take it in another direction," says Becker.

Becker is working to make the general interest of the event as broad as possible, with campus-wide unity in mind. While this might be his intent, one wonders if this is actually going to be the case at Beerology 101. It sounds like an extravagant frat party, but it could be just the thing for a spring day.

Hoppy: Hops is a flower-derivative oil used to flavour beer and prevent bacterial action. It adds a characteristic bitter taste. The adjective "hoppy" means that this oil is used in abundance.

Malty: Malt is a type of glazed barley that has been allowed to sprout, in order to make alcohol. A malty beer generally has a sweeter taste.

Dry: No aftertaste.

Body: This refers to the strength of beer, full or light, and also denotes aftertaste.

Head: This is nothing obscene–it's the foam on the top of beer. It has to do with carbonation and fermentation processes. Ales and bitters have almost none, lager has some and you definitely want creamy head on a stout. On Guinness beer, look for the "cascade effect," as bartender Dickson calls it–an overflowing of creamy head.

Draught or Draft: Means that the beer came straight from the tap, but many macro breweries, such as Labatt, abuse this term. Think "Genuine Draft."

I.P.A.: India Pale Ale. This beer was specially developed for British soldiers serving in India in the 19th century. It was designed to keep while traveling from Britain to India. It has a more bitter taste.

Lager: Denoted for its long fermentation process, it is also very dry and bitter.

Bitter: An English beer. It is an acquired taste and is sometimes served warm. It's pretty bitter. Duh.

Pilsner: The first pilsner came from Plzen, Czech Republic. It was the first non-dark beer and is still brewed there now. In Canada, it is referred to as "drinking the pil," especially by Saskatchewan folks. (This is according to local rumour, not the Saskatchewan government).

Ale: Many different beers are called ales. While they have a wide range in taste, they are made with a lot of malt and are sweeter or fruitier than other beers. They are darker and heavier than lagers.

Porter: A dark, almost black beer. It is sweeter than its close relative, the Stout.

Stout: Dark, strong, rich. This is a solid black beer. It could make a spoon stand up straight, it's so thick.

Wheat beer: A very popular drink right now, it uses wheat as the primary grain rather than hops or barley. It is quite similar to hemp beer.

White beer: It's a Belgian beer. Very pale, with almost a bubblegum flavour to it.

Tickets are available at the SUB info booth. Beerology 101 will be in the Michèle Pujol room Thursday, April 1.

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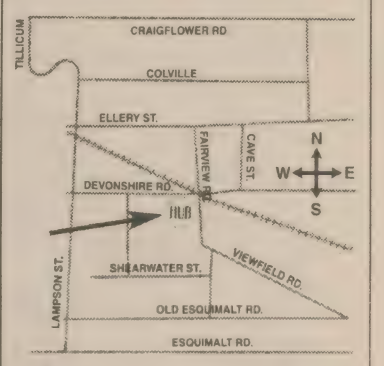

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Knudsen breaks faces, wins glory

BY JOHN BRANDON GRAHAM-KNIGHT

NIC HUME PHOTO

Jesse Knudsen, the top-ranked heavyweight karate fighter in B.C., spars with Sensei Kurt Pattison of the UVic Shotokan Karate club.

A fractured ankle won't stop University of Victoria student Jesse Knudsen from competing at the national karate tournament this weekend, but his opponents' broken bones just might.

At just 18 years old, Knudson is already ranked as the best heavyweight karate fighter in B.C., and for some time now his competitors have had a nasty habit of running into his fists and feet.

But this weekend's national championship isn't just about fighting. The tournament, scheduled for March 25–28, features both kata and kumite. Kumite, or free-sparring, is what most people picture when they think of karate. Two contenders enter a ring and try to punch and kick their way to victory.

Kata is more like a dance, where each competitor performs a series of moves by himself and the one with the best form wins.

Knudsen does both. And he does both well. In fact, he does them so well that he competed for Canada against the world in Switzerland last October.

"It was amazing," said Knudsen. "I saw the fastest fighters I'd ever seen."

Knudsen brought home a bronze medal for under-21 team kumite, a three-fight event where everyone fights once. The team who wins the most individual fights wins the event.

Knudsen was the last man to fight for his team, and when he entered the ring the match was tied. He won by breaking his opponent's nose with a kick.

"I fought flawlessly," Knudsen said. "I love watching the video of that fight."

Knudsen began karate at the age of seven and entered his first tournament in 1994, but he didn't win his first medal until 1996, when he was 11 years old. At 14 he tried out for the B.C. team but was cut when he gave an opponent a concussion.

He finally made the provincial team at 16. At the nationals that year, he took home a bronze for team kumite, but was disqualified from individual kumite.

"[My opponent] kept running into my fist," said Knudsen. "I'm serious, he did. There was blood coming down from different parts of his face. His nose and mouth were both bleeding."

By 17 Knudsen was the best fighter in B.C. for his age group. At that year's nationals in Laval, Quebec, he took first in individual kumite, but was disqualified from team kumite for kicking an opponent in the head.

"He ran into my foot," said Knudsen. "And then I hit his ribs. He was short, small, and I was fed up."

Knudsen is now in his first year at UVic and trains under Sensei Kurt Pattison at the UVic Shotokan Karate club.

At the end of November, Knudsen competed as part of the UVic team at the Karate BC open. He competed in the 18-20 age division for both kata and kumite and entered men's kumite for fun.

"I wanted to see how I'd do," said Knudsen. "I had no expectations to do well. But by the end of the day, I had three gold medals."

At a tournament on January 10, Knudsen won both the men's and the 18–20 year old divisions for kumite, but he stumbled on his fractured ankle and took second in kata.

Because of his recent performances, Knudsen is now ranked as the best male heavyweight fighter in B.C.

"Now I'm just focusing on nationals," said Knudsen. "I don't know what I expect from the men's division. All I can hope for is excellent competition."

Sports briefs

Fairy-tale ending for men's rugby

The Vikes men's rugby team must have felt like Cinderella last Wednesday after discovering that the boot did indeed fit their feet.

The team recaptured some UVic pride by hammering UBC 34–18 in the second half of the "boot game," an annual two-game, total point series between the two rivals. Last November the two teams tied 25–25 in Vancouver.

While there was no word on whether the team arrived at the game in a pumpkin or whether Head Coach Doug Tate was going by "fairy godmother," fly half Mike Danskin was certainly the game's handsome prince.

The national sevens team member lit the Thunderbirds up for two tries, three conversions and a penalty kick, a personal tally of 20 points.

Danskin was ably aided by his wicked stepsisters Kyle Haley, Derek Cooke and Ed Fairhurst, who touched down for a try each.

The Vikes next tale/game is against the Castaway Wanderers at Wallace Field this Saturday at 3 p.m.

Sadness and woe for women

Unfortunately for the women's rugby team, their performance last weekend was more Rumplestiltskin than Cinderella.

Unable to weave straw into gold, the Vikes were forced to stay at home and as a result had to forfeit their playoff match against Capilano. UVic took a 5–0 loss and are now eliminated from the British Columbia Rugby Union's Women's Premier Division playoffs.

No one from the team replied to requests to spin the tale explaining the mysterious forfeit.

The Vikes next play against the Meralomas in Vancouver this weekend in a consolation match.

Greater Victoria wants to be like Vike

Vikes athletics is up for four nominations at this weekend's Greater Victoria Sports awards.

In a continuation of the long tradition of popularity for UVic women, two Vikes are up for female athlete of the year: Lindsay Anderson, a former CIS All-Canadian and star of the 2002–2003 national basketball championship team, and Lauren MacLean, a member of the Canadian national Field Hockey team and the captain of the Vikes team that won silver at last fall's CIS national field hockey championship.

Anderson's championship team picked up a nomination for Team of the Year, and Head Coach Brian Chen got the nod as Coach of the Year.

The banquet is being held at the Princess Victoria restaurant Saturday night. Tickets are $45 each. For more information contact Pat Hall at 389-0223.

–Richard Warnica

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Juan de Fuca's going on?

Heavy traffic and dying trees have forced Juan de Fuca Recreation to close the doors on its popular disc golf course

by Richard Warnica

Barring the intervention of a philanthropic arborist or a sudden influx of big-time cash, Juan de Fuca, Victoria's hugely popular disc golf course, will remain closed to the public for the foreseeable future.

The course, located in a hilly stretch of woodland park next to the Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre on the Old Island Highway, has been closed since last fall, after an insurance assessment determined that the risk of a tree falling and striking a player was a liability for the centre.

An arborist later determined that at least 20–30 trees would have to be removed, at a cost of $30,000, before the area was safe for play.

"We just didn't have the money in our budget," said Juan de Fuca recreation official Monte Holding. "So we had to close the course and take out the baskets."

While the rec centre is working with the recently formed Island Disc Golf Society to redesign the course and find either some way to pay for the work, or a kind-hearted tree faller or arborist willing to do it for free. Still, Holding is not optimistic that it will re-open soon.

"There is no timeline . . . for getting the funds," he said. "The Disc Golf Society is trying to raise the money and is looking for more sites, but there is no way of actually knowing when that might happen."

Until it does, the course will remain closed.

Juan de Fuca recreation was given the land during the Commonwealth games. The course was built when a group from the Vancouver-based British Columbia Disc Sports Society (BCDSS) approached Juan de Fuca.

The two groups worked together to develop an 18-hole course that wound between the trees, up and down a series of cliffs and–on the tenth hole–over a stagnant, disc-eating swamp known only as "the bog." Four-foot posts with large steel and chain baskets were installed, as were a variety of tee boxes, from the carpeted first hole to the curving roots on the fifth.

As the popularity of the game blossomed, so did the traffic. Soon, the course's greatest attraction, its rough-hewn, meandering path through the deep trees, became its greatest liability.

Repeated trampling of the areas around trees killed off many of their surface roots, impeding their ability to get nutrients and moisture from the soil. As the trees died, the chance that they would split and fall, killing or seriously maiming a disc-heaving bystander increased.

Last year the course closed for nearly a week so that some preliminary falling of dead trees could be done. But the extent of the problem wasn't discovered until the BCDSS decided to hold a tournament last spring.

The recreation centre's policy mandates that all groups holding an event on their land secure liability insurance, so the BCDSS brought in an insurer, who quickly ruled that because of the danger of falling trees, the course could not be insured. Soon after, it was shut down.

But for some regular players the risk to the trees and to the players doesn't justify the closure.

Cliff, who declined to give his last name, used to play the course every day before it was closed.

"I heard they shut it down 'cause the trees might fall down–well, let the fucking things fall down," he said. "Let them do an environmental assessment on the golf course."

Owen, another regular player, agreed. "There's lots of measures to protect the trees if that's what they're worried about," he said.

In fact, while the course is officially closed to the public, Holding acknowledges that some people still play.

On the course last Monday, Christine Lee and Leela Dillon agreed that while having no baskets to shoot at "sucks," it wouldn't stop them from playing the course "a lot."

But that same afternoon, one of the first warm sunny days of spring, there were only a handful of players dotted across the 18 holes, far from the overwhelming crowd that would have arrived on a similar day last year.

As the course continues to be played, it is also undergoing a significant remodelling. After the baskets were removed in the fall, a variety of ad hoc replacements sprung up. For a while, an arm-thick, six-foot branch stood as a target on the first hole, while everything from plastic garbage can lids to pink ribbon wrapped wooden sticks replaced the other baskets. Recently, white and pink stakes have appeared on all the holes.

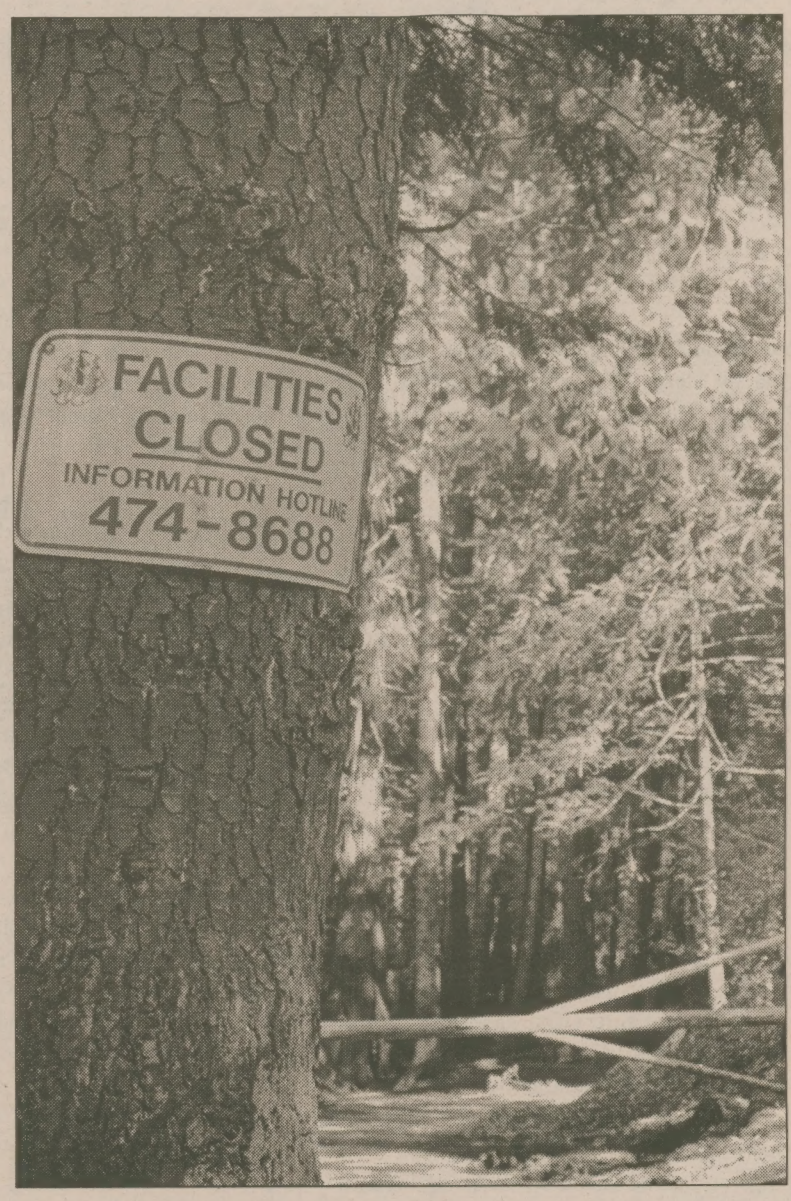
Aside from the basket changes, the Island Disc Golf Society has taken steps to protect some at-risk trees. Protective gardens, surrounded by dead logs and filled with wooden chips, now circle the base of a half-dozen trees, providing some measure of protection for their near-surface roots.

Heaps of mulch and shorn underbrush surround the entrance to the course, evidence of the mass bush and tree removal currently going on.

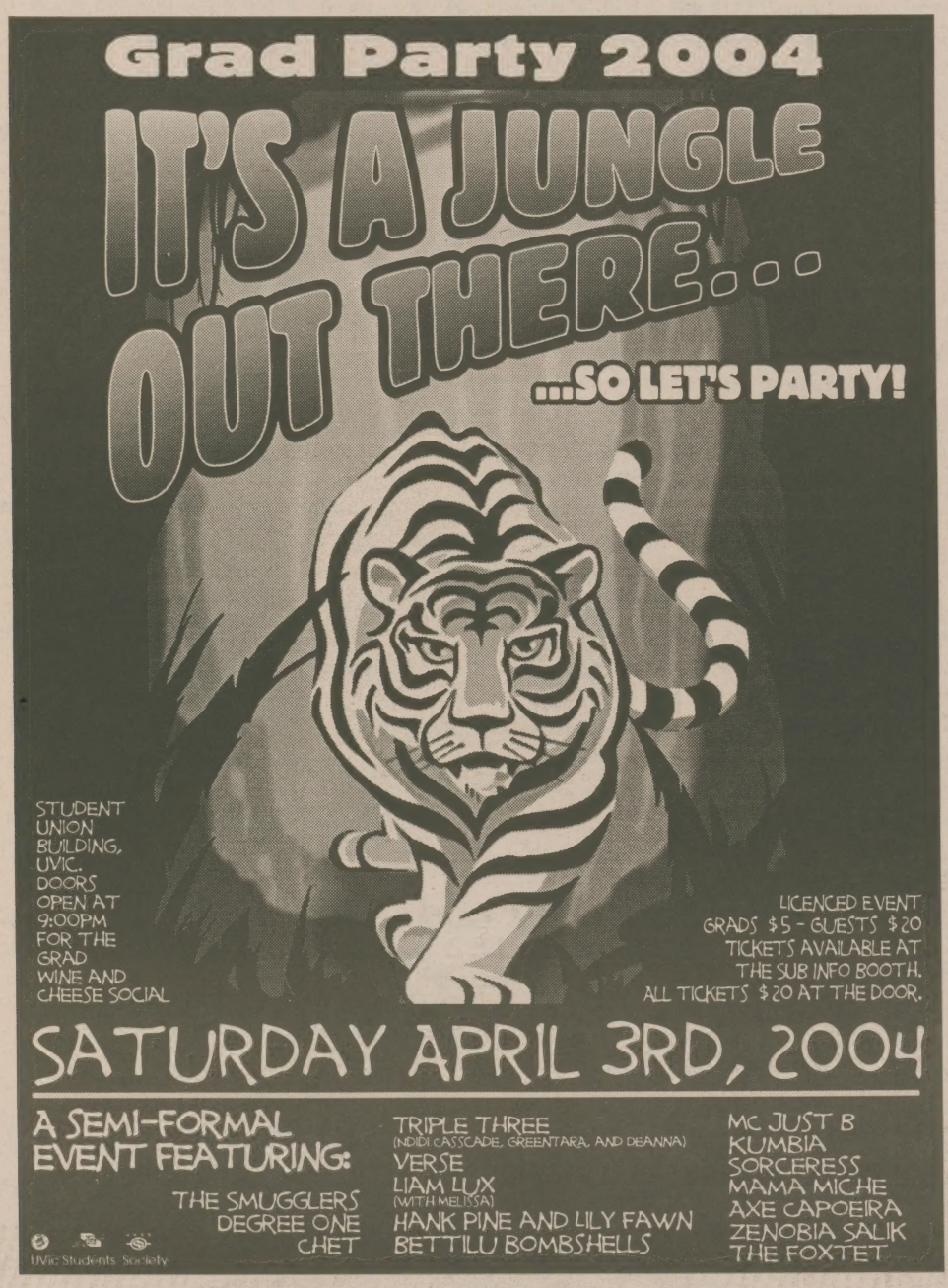
Yet despite all this, Holding maintains that the course will not be fully open to the public until the trees come down.

For Cliff, even though he wants his baskets back, there is a silver lining in all of this.

"It's good they shut it down–'cause everyone's not running all over the place," he said. "It should have been done a long time ago. It's too late now."



The "facilities closed" sign and unlocked gate have kept most, but not all, disc golfers away from the Juan de Fuca course in Colwood.



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On campus

2nd Annual Ecological Footprint Day. On Monday March 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the SUB, the UVic Sustainability Project and Environmental Student's Association will be hosting an EcoEvent to wrap up the school year. All-day information fair featuring local farmers, environmental groups, NGOs, activists and student groups as well as drum circles (bring your drums), workshops and a Garage-less Garage Sale. For more information, contact Jenn Welsh, UVSP Coordinator at 721-7355 or uvsp@uvic.ca.

Do you want to have a garage sale but don't have a garage? Here's your chance to sell some stuff before leaving for the summer! On Monday March 29 as part of Ecological Footprint Day, the UVSP will host a Community Garage Sale! For a $5 donation to the UVSP you will get a table to sell your stuff rather than sending it to the landfill. Items you could sell: books, clothes, CDs, knick-knacks and small appliances (no refrigerators please!) At the end of the day, you can choose to leave the remaining goods, which we will then donate to top local charities. If you have things you don't need anymore and simply want to donate them for the sale, or if you want to register for a table, contact Jenn Welsh at 721-7355 or uvsp@uvic.ca.

April 1st no fooling breakfast celebration. All UVic students with children are invited April 1 7:30-8:30 a.m. to join us as celebrate and recognize. Come to the big tent outside the UVic Family Centre on Lam Circle for treats, prizes and surprises. Bring the kids if you can and drop in before school for breakfast (hot dogs and ice cream for breakfast anyone?). For more info call 472-4062. Sponsored by the UVic Family Centre and the UVic Alumni Association.

Off campus

Rally!! Defend Our Public Lands!
Help stop the Campbell government's "Working Forest" proposal, an anti-forest protection act that would lead to the de facto and outright privatization of B.C.'s public forest lands. Please come and help keep our public lands in public hands! Saturday, March 27, 11:30 a.m. Centennial Square. 12:00–1:00 p.m. Legislature BACKWARDS MARCH @ Legislature.

UVic Red Cross Club presents Night of 1,000 Dinners. Friday, March 26, 2004, 6:30 p.m. Come bring a potluck dish and donation of $5+ and help support land mine awareness. There will be music, a speaker, games and videos . . . don't forget food. All are welcome . . . tell your friends.
More info: redcross@uvic.ca.

Victoria Writers' Society – First Wednesday of every month, 7:15 p.m. in the New Horizons Centre at 234 Menzies St. in James Bay. open to the public. We offer information, support, and exposure to emerging and established writers, and we now offer a discounted student membership rate of $15 for university and college students. Our speaker on April 7, will be Troy Wilson, author of Perfect Man, published by Orca Books. For more info, visit victoriawriters.com.

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Announcements

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and Pizza Party, Catholic Student Association, Sunday March 28, 5 p.m., Holy Cross Parish (4049 Gordon Head Road). Students of all ages welcome to take part.

UVic Stormwater Management Public Open House: The University of Victoria has just completed the DRAFT Stormwater Management Plan for the Gordon Head Campus. Students, faculty, staff and community members are encouraged to review the plan and submit feedback or comments.
A Public Open House will be held Thursday March 25, between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., in the Michele Pujol Room, SUB. Coffee, tea and snacks provided.
For more information on the UVic DRAFT Stormwater Management Plan, call Sarah Webb, Interim Sustainability Coordinator, at 472-5011.

Activist Video Night presents "Poverty Outlaw" the true story of one woman's descent into poverty and her odyssey of clawing her way out. She and other women turn "outlaw," forming a welfare rights union to legally and illegally secure their basic human rights to feed, clothe and house themselves and their children. They march, lobby, protest . . . and in the dark of night take what they need to survive. 7:00 p.m., Friday, April 2, Camosun College (Lansdowne Campus) Fisher Building theatre, room 100, FREE, info. 595-3991.

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Hey you! Stop sleeping in class, the prof can see up your nose!

Hey you! I know the weather's warming up, but please don't wear those shorts. Please.

Hey all of you running around feigning importance with your insignificant lives. If the human race dropped from the face of the planet tomorrow, do you really think that the rest of the species that live here would care?

Today has been cancelled due to lack of interest.

Conversational niceties are completely unnecessary. Stop asking me how I am and then rolling your eyes when I answer with something more than "fine."

Hey sunshine! I know you gave me the lotion but guess what? The way you touched me, I still got burned.

Small Boy and Monkey keeps getting better, and it never takes jokes from Spin City.

I went to study for my exam but someone had read all of the words off the page. I am bereft.

Roses are red, violets are blue, the planet is dying, and so are you.

Boweling this weekend, goons. I'll try to make it, but who knows what will happen.

Romance is dead; I know, I've made out on its grave and no one gave me flowers.

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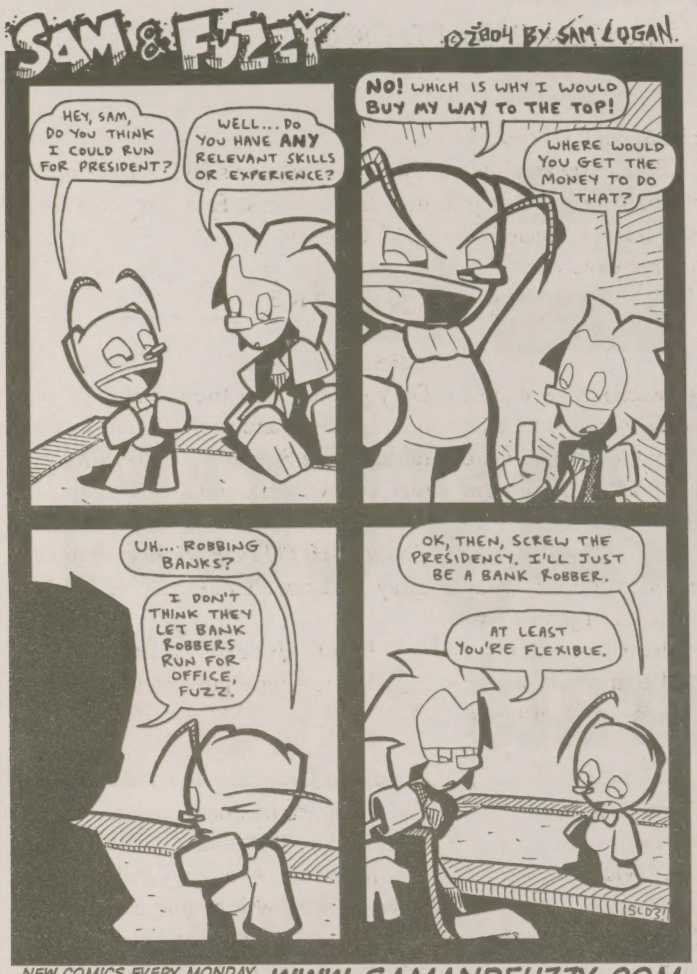
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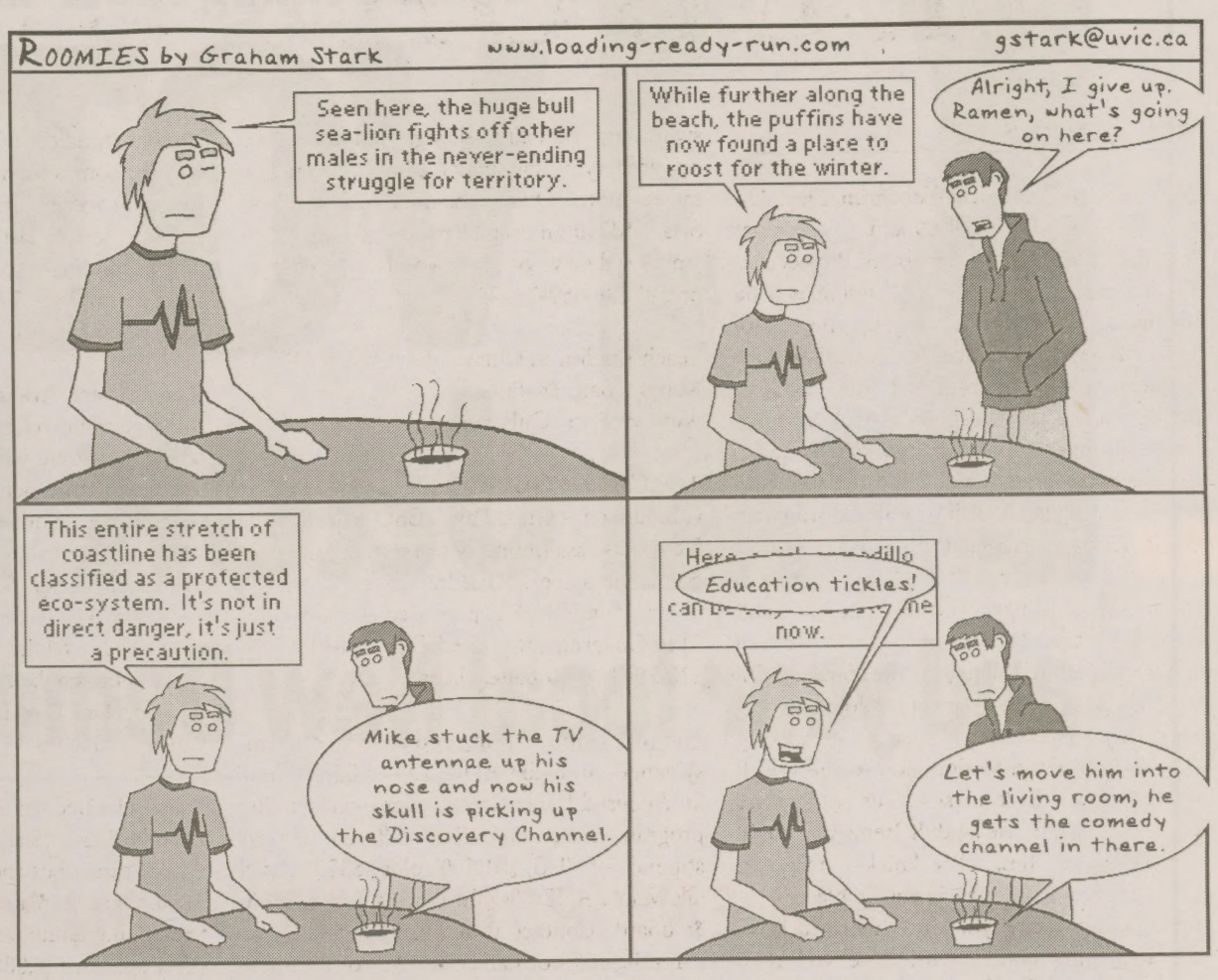
WELL... DO YOU HAVE ANY RELEVANT SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE?
NO! WHICH IS WHY I WOULD BUY MY WAY TO THE TOP!
WHERE WOULD YOU GET THE MONEY TO DO THAT?
UH... ROBBING BANKS?
I DON'T THINK THEY LET BANK ROBBERS RUN FOR OFFICE, FUZZ.
OK, THEN, SCREW THE PRESIDENCY. I'LL JUST BE A BANK ROBBER.
AT LEAST YOU'RE FLEXIBLE.
SLD31

NEW COMICS EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT: WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM

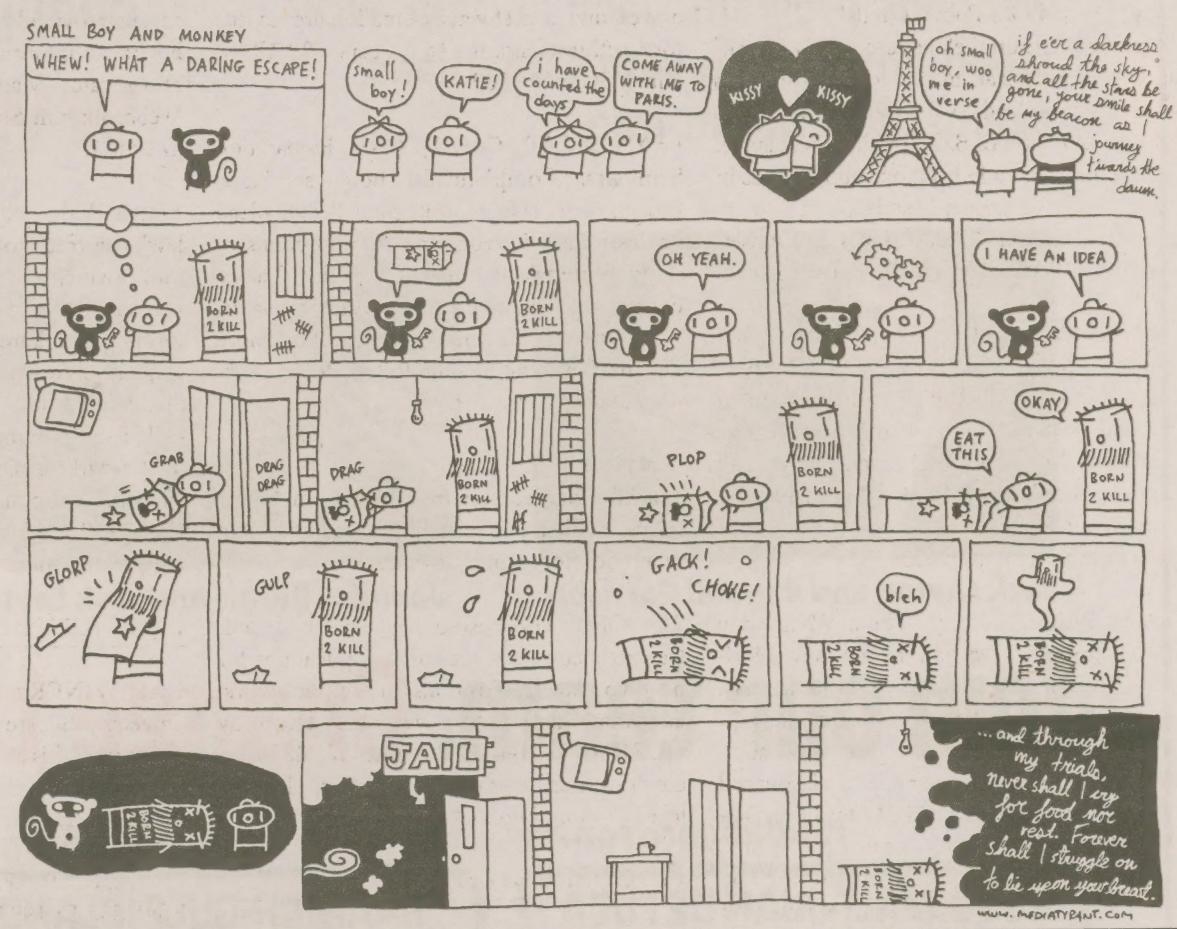

ROOMIES by Graham Stark
www.loading-ready-run.com
gstark@uvic.ca
Seen here, the huge bull sea-lion fights off other males in the never-ending struggle for territory.
While further along the beach, the puffins have now found a place to roost for the winter.
Alright, I give up. Ramen, what's going on here?
This entire stretch of coastline has been classified as a protected eco-system. It's not in direct danger, it's just a precaution.
Mike stuck the TV antennae up his nose and now his skull is picking up the Discovery Channel.
Education tickles!
now.
Let's move him into the living room, he gets the comedy channel in there.

www.PostmodernHaircut.com

The Adventures of...
NOAM CHOMSKY
and his dog Predicate!
by Jeffrey Weston
So Noam, do you see that waffle you're eating as a representation of individual thoughts and freedoms being consumed by the self-serving culture of the powerful elite?
No. It's a waffle.
It's not easy living with Noam Chomsky.
I always hear, "I can't vaccum now", "do your own laundry", "ain't is not a word". It's like doing the dishes is some sort of foreign policy to him.
Hey, did you get that? Foreign policy! Ha!
Why are you interviewing my dog? This documentary is supposed to be about ideas!
Because, I'm far more entertaining.
This is becoming a disaster.
Relax, you're guaranteed at least 2nd billing.
Available only on beautiful VHS!
Introducing... Predicate in... MANUFACTURING CONSENT 2
also with Noam Chomsky

DISCE PATI
Anne? What are you doing in there?
Why don't you come in and see, Grandpa?
Are you smoking? You're smoking, right?
Oh grandpa! I was just playing with my mom's old doll-house!
You know, the thing about cigarettes is that smart people don't want to smoke, but their bodies want them to.
That's why you should never start.
Oh no, I'm going to start - when I'm an adult. I'm going to smoke in your house, and you'll have to move.
No you won't.
What are you going to do? Put up a "No Smoking" sign?
...I'll just burn it with my cigarette.

"misunderstood in seventeen laguages"

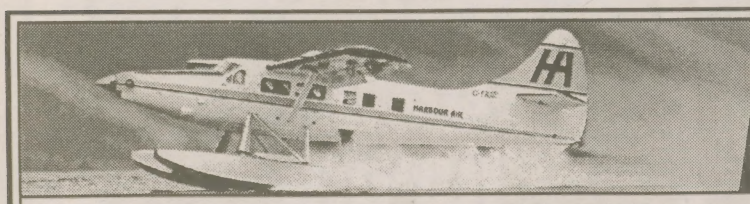

SMALL BOY AND MONKEY
WHEW! WHAT A DARING ESCAPE!
small boy!
KATIE!
i have counted the days
COME AWAY WITH ME TO PARIS.
KISSY
KISSY
oh small boy, woo me in verse
if e'er a darkness shroud the sky, and all the stars be gone, your smile shall be my beacon as i journey towards the dawn.
BORN 2 KILL
OH YEAH.
I HAVE AN IDEA
GRAB
DRAG
PLOP
EAT THIS
OKAY
GLORP
GULP
GACK! CHOKE!
bleh
JAIL
...and through my trials, never shall I cry for food nor rest. Forever shall I struggle on to lie upon your breast.
WWW.MEDIATYRANT.COM

Y'know...
you really ought to draw comics.

I know it's near the end of the year and all, but still.

And remember:
"Correct spelling is the key to comedy!" —abez

photo@martlet.ca | sub b011



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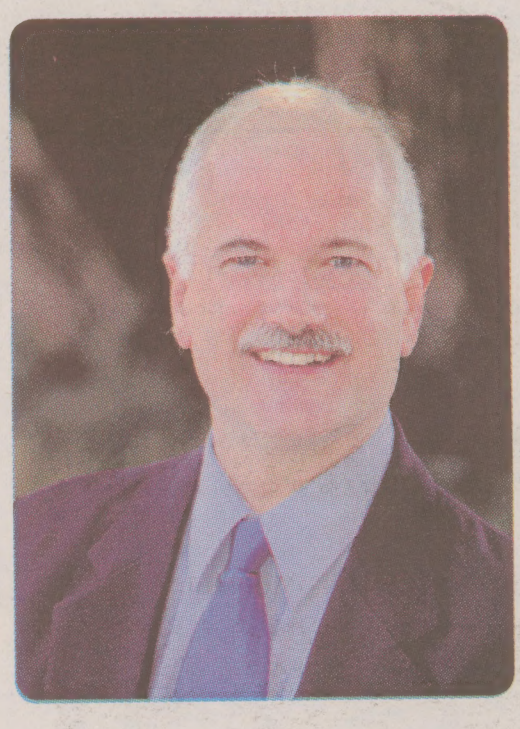


In the coming federal election,

VOTE for Jack Layton

and your local New Democrats NDP

ON YOUR ENVIRONMENT

While Jack Layton and the NDP stood up for the Kyoto agreement, the Liberals and Conservatives did all they could to reject it. Visit www.ndp.ca/ndpgreen.html to see what else the NDP is doing for your environment.

ON YOUR WORLD

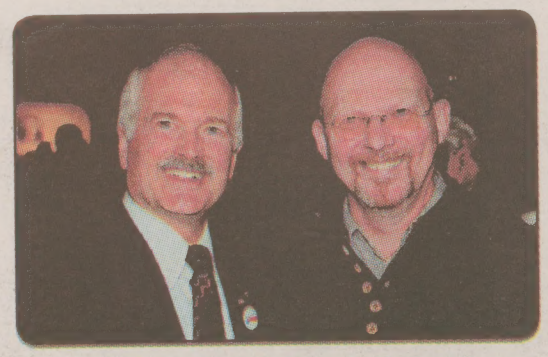
Jack Layton and the NDP are leading the fight against the Star Wars weapons program. Jack and the NDP stood arm in arm with Canadians against the war in Iraq.

ON YOUR EDUCATION

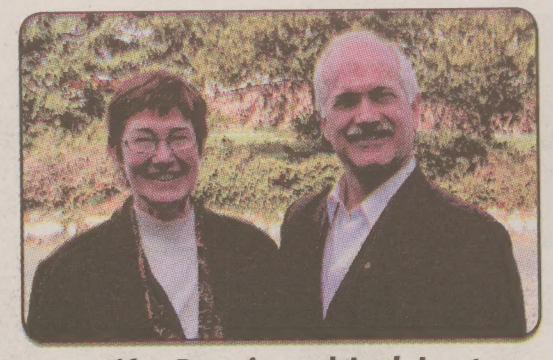
Jack Layton and the NDP believe the federal government should help students through grants and lower tuition fees, not through more student debt.

Tired of arrogant government that doesn't listen to you? Join Jack's team, and help us change the government.

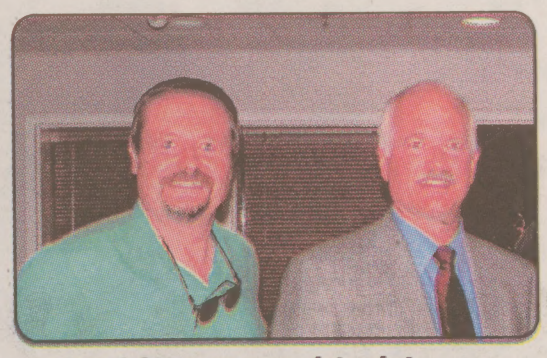
www.ndp.ca



Jack Layton and Randall Garrison



Jennifer Burgis and Jack Layton



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